

Monday August 3 1998

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The Guardian

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Sport
Hakkinen stretches title lead

Madeleine Bunting

For real UK politics go to the Muslims and Catholics
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Finance

Small firms plead for life
Page 12

'Tour de Farce' ends

Italian's victory tainted by drug scandal

Paul Webster in Paris

THROUGH the late afternoon rain clouds a weak sun shone as the 85th Tour de France ended yesterday, the only bright spot in the three-week event in which the overall winner, Marco Pantani of Italy, took second place to a scandal over drug use.

Heavy rain had soaked the cobbles of the Champs Elysees as the cyclists started the final circuits watched by a smaller than average crowd, their subdued mood a striking contrast to the festive on the same avenue that greeted France's World Cup football win three weeks ago.

While race organisers congratulated the first Italian winner of the race for 33 years, conversation at the downbeat closing ceremony concentrated on whether the tour would go ahead next year. Several non-French teams, rattled by police investigations and frustrated by riders' strikes, say they will not take part next July in what the press has labelled the "Tour de Farce".

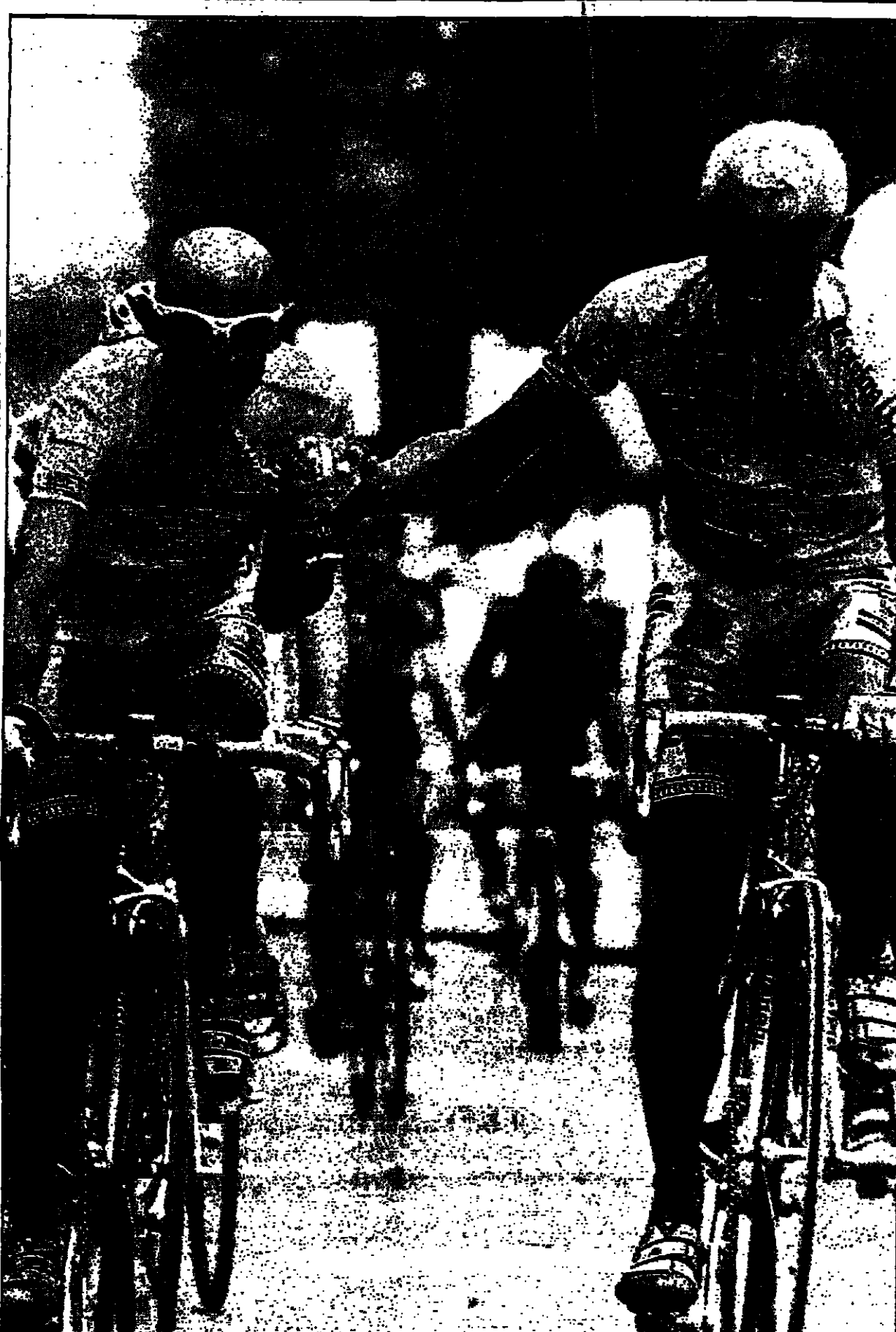
Their example is being followed by leading sponsors, who spend up to \$2 million to back crack teams. Police have hinted that a number of riders are ready to act as informers after the race, while some end-of-season competitions have been cancelled because more raids are coming.

Sports writers did their best to re-inject enthusiasm into the shattered competition, but the most significant post-race analysis was carried out by sports doctors, shocked by the growing use of dangerous drugs that directly or indirectly forced seven of the 21 teams to pull out of the race.

An Italian racer, Rodolfo Massi, was arrested for alleged drug dealing and other top riders and team managers have been detained and interrogated.

Calls for a radical overhaul were supported by the former European Commission president, Jacques Delors, who urged strict new regulations to ensure that "neither cash nor miracle cures pollute the vast sporting world".

A terrifying picture of competitors being crippled or even killed by drugs now



A team-mate congratulates Marco Pantani (left) on winning the Tour de France yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT REBOURS

in use throughout professional and amateur cycling was revealed by Gerard Nicolet, a member of the French Cycling Federation's executive and a former chief doctor to the tour.

"The practice has become generalised and very worrying," he said, adding that the French federation had

issued a full-scale doping alert a year ago. "Among amateur riders, the idea that drugs are essential to reach a high level is now well anchored. They say they have no choice even for a little village race."

Drugs-related cases of heart problems, thrombosis, hepatitis, chest diseases and strokes had been diagnosed and he was certain that there had been several unreported deaths in the past two or three years. A new substance called perfluorocarbon, PFC, was being produced in the United States, despite warnings that it was "terribly dangerous".

Police intend to question the chairman of the French

Cycling Federation, Daniel Beal, and the managing director of the Tour de France, Jean-Marie Leblanc, over concerns that cycling executives might have turned a blind eye to practices dating back at least 30 years.

The Pirate climbs to greatness, Sport page 15

News of the enormous scale of Unita's illicit diamond trading operation came as the United Nations was desperately trying to keep the two sides apart in Angola. A five-day peace mission began last week.

One of the few rays of light for international peace-makers has been the hope that Unita, having ceded some diamond areas and having been pushed out of some others, was losing its ability to trade diamonds for cash turn to page 2, column 7

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Runaway MI5 agent faces trial

Richard Norton-Taylor

THE former MI5 officer David Shayler was locked up in a Paris jail last night awaiting extradition hearings after the Government dramatically raised the stakes in its attempt to prevent him from making further disclosures about the activities of Britain's security and intelligence services.

He was arrested late on Saturday night, hours after Richard Tomlinson, a former officer of MI5 — the overseas intelligence agency — was arrested by French security police on an international warrant issued by the British authorities.

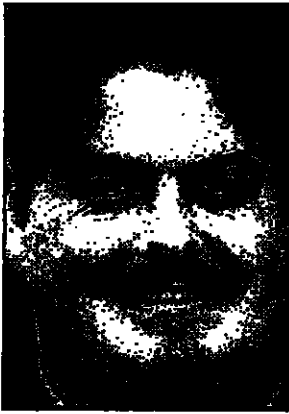
The extraordinary series of events unfolded as the Government confirmed that John Morris, the Attorney-General, had taken the highly risky decision to prosecute Mr Shayler for alleged breaches of the Official Secrets Act. It was reported yesterday that Mr Shayler had been planning to publish details of an alleged plot to assassinate the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

In a booklet published last week, MI5 insisted it did not kill people or arrange their assassination. However, the Intelligence Services Act protects MI5 agents who commit acts abroad with ministerial authority which would be illegal in Britain.

Mr Shayler, aged 32, was arrested in a Paris hotel by three plain clothes police officers returning from a nearby bar to watch his football team, Middlesbrough, on television. Annie Machon, his girlfriend, said yesterday: "All they [the police] would tell me was that he was going to the Ministry of Interior."

Mr Tomlinson was arrested at gunpoint on Friday afternoon at a different hotel shortly after speaking on the telephone to Ms Machon. "It was like a full SAS assault," he told the Guardian yesterday. "Police burst into my room, three were in the corridor, and two outside with an ambulance. I have a badly cracked rib."

He travelled to France without a passport last week, a few days before his parole conditions were due to end following his release from



David Shayler: 'never aimed to damage national security'

prison in London this year after serving a 12-month sentence for breaching the Official Secrets Act. A former SAS soldier who served in Moscow and Bosnia and was allegedly involved in a plot to sabotage a nuclear plant in a Middle Eastern country, Mr Tomlinson was arrested after he applied for his passport at the New Zealand embassy in Paris — he has dual British-New Zealand nationality. He was released on Saturday after being questioned by DST, the French equivalent of MI5, in the presence of a British Special Branch officer.

He said yesterday he was convinced he would have been rearrested for breaching secrecy laws if he had stayed in Britain, even though he had done nothing wrong. He said he had been kept under surveillance.

An Australian television journalist was arrested then released in London last week. "She was asked whether I had

spoken to her about British defence interests." Mr Tomlinson said. "It is completely untrue. I just want to go to New Zealand." Special Branch took his laptop computer though it contained nothing secret. He said he had no intention of pursuing plans to write a book about MI6 — he was jailed last year for sending a synopsis to an Australian publisher.

A Home Office spokeswoman declined to comment on the circumstances that led to Mr Shayler's arrest. She insisted that Mr Morris had taken the decision to prosecute him some time ago and it was not related to any new allegations.

Under a European convention, the French authorities have 40 days to make a decision on extradition. Isabelle Chauvin, deputy public prosecutor at the Parquet de Paris, the French public prosecutions office, was reported last night as saying that Mr Shayler would remain in custody pending a decision. He is in the main Paris jail, the Prison de la Santé.

John Wadham, his lawyer and the director of the civil rights group Liberty, said extradition would be fought. "The attempts to bring him back to Britain are the result of a mess which is of the British authorities' own making."

He told BBC's Breakfast With Frost that no jury would convict him.

Mr Wadham said Mr Shayler never intended to damage national security. "The French authorities should not therefore extradite him."

See next page, page 5; Leader comment, page 9

Angola rebels provoke crisis in diamond trade

Smuggling allows Unita to rearm as fears grow of market collapse

Don Atkinson in Antwerp

THE spectre of a worldwide crash in gemstone prices loomed this week as it emerged up to 5 per cent of all diamonds are in the hands of Angola's rebel Unita movement, according to a confidential briefing given to European Union leaders.

This is way above previous estimates, and, if correct, makes a mockery of suggestions that Unita has been los-

ing its grip on valuable diamond-mining areas in the war-torn country.

The estimates help to explain the EU's tough decision last week to slap new sanctions on Unita with special reference to diamonds. The level of smuggling currently under way is allowing the movement to rearm and to recruit fresh troops in preparation for an expected resumption of hostilities in the near future.

Not only is the figure of \$360 million (\$235 million)

proof of a smuggling bonanza out of Angola to European centres such as Antwerp, and, to a lesser extent, London's Hatton Garden. It also casts a cloud over figures due later this month from the mining giant De Beers, whose cartel seeks to smooth out fluctuations in the gem market and to keep diamond prices high.

De Beers is in a quandary in the wake of the EU's July 28 sanctions decision. As an operator within the union it is bound not to accept any stones from Angola that are not certified by the recognised government. This ties its hands in operations to mop up illicit or smuggled diamonds, given that it is not

allowed to touch contraband Unita gems.

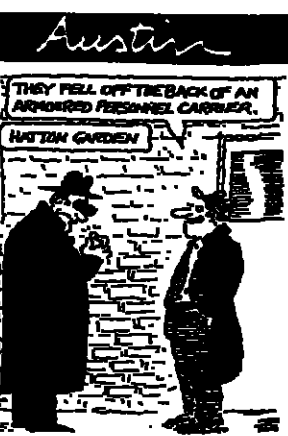
A spokeswoman confirmed last week that De Beers would not buy any Angolan diamonds that did not carry the appropriate paperwork. Meanwhile, smugglers are shifting huge quantities of stones out of the Unita area in northern Angola. Some are transported to Namibia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), and even South Africa, where it is possible for them to be falsely relabelled as having originated in those countries.

Others are moved direct to Europe, where they are often traded in backstreet cafes or even on the pavements of Ant-

werp and London. Angola is on some measures the world's third largest diamond producer, and the quality of its stones is excellent.

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Public spending watchdog urged to investigate the huge cost of abandoned houses on poorest estates where no one wants to live

Billions wasted on unwanted homes

Peter Hetherington
Regional Affairs
Correspondent

BILLIONS of pounds have been wasted on thousands of council homes in areas where no one wants to live, according to a charity partly funded by the Department of the Environment.

The Empty Homes Agency is writing to the National

Audit Office calling for an inquiry into the rising cost of maintaining abandoned houses which cannot be let in some of the country's poorest areas, the Guardian and Channel 4 News have learned. In a letter to the Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, it says that the cost of securing an estimated 80,000 abandoned council homes in England alone is now around £200,000 a year.

Bob Laurence, chief executive of the agency, says the

number of empty homes owned by councils and housing associations — the main public landlords — is now rising remorselessly because billions of pounds have been spent improving areas where no one wants to live.

"There are areas in the country where the way money is being spent is little short of scandalous," he said. "Many estates that have been refurbished or built in the last 10 years will be pulled down during the life of this

government because better use can be made of the land they're built on."

Over the past five years alone, the number of empty council and housing association homes has risen from 1.9 per cent of total stock to 2.5 per cent. "We anticipate that statistics for this year will show an even more depressing picture," Mr Laurence tells Sir John in the letter. "The increasing number of vacant houses and flats held by councils has led... to escalating

expense in defending and securing empty property and... making good the consequences of arson, theft and damage to the vacancies."

England is likely to have 100,000 abandoned public sector homes by the millennium, as well as a rising number of empty Ministry of Defence properties, now put at over 13,000.

The true scale of the country's abandoned homes is coming to light because, housing experts say, many coun-

cils concealed figures during the Conservative years, fearing that ministers would cut their budgets.

The figures come amid mounting concern over estate modernisation programmes this decade, with at least £4 billion being spent in some of the poorest estates. The Housing Corporation, the government agency that funds most social housing, is threatening to pull out of areas — writing off tens of millions in the process — and

demolish relatively new homes as a last resort.

Its chairman, Baroness Dean, the former print union leader, said it no longer made sense to invest in the worst areas "with no foreseeable future". She added: "Where there is no hope we shouldn't invest money. But, of course, we can't simply walk away. The communities in areas without hope are better served by being helped to move to better places to live."

She told the Guardian and

Channel 4 News that the problem of empty homes was a new phenomenon, which was concerning her association as well as the Government.

Some of the worst estates would probably have to be demolished.

With the Government preparing to unveil its New Deal for Communities programme in up to 20 of the worst estates, housing experts are keen to ensure mistakes are not repeated.



PHOTOGRAPHS: CRAIG CONNOR

Poor lookout... Boarded-up flats in Scotswood, Newcastle upon Tyne, and (right) one of the houses on the estate which remain a dubious proposition despite the recent facelift

Where cash was poured into a facelift, but all to no avail

Peter Hetherington on an estate in the North-east caught in a downward spiral

UNITIL recently, it was hailed as a model of estate reborn after rioters burned out houses and shops six years ago.

As part of the last government's City Challenge programme, Scotswood had a £15 million facelift, involving the demolition of scores of houses and the rebuilding of others at a cost of £30,000 each.

Roads were landscaped and partially blocked in a series of traffic-calming measures to thwart young joy riders. For added security, closed-circuit television cameras were installed on high pylons at key junctions.

But today the estate, in the unfashionable west end of Newcastle upon Tyne, seems to be slipping back to its old ways, with houses boarded up and abandoned.

The picture is much the same in the ghettos of Britain's large cities, and in large estates on the outskirts, where billions of pounds have been spent on modernisation programmes over the past 10 years — often to little effect.

This has prompted organisations such as the Housing Corporation, a quango that funds public housing, to consider pulling out of some areas and, implicitly, write off hundreds of millions of pounds by demolishing parts of new, unwanted estates.

"Where there are areas of no hope, we shouldn't invest money," says its chairman, Baroness Dean, the former print union leader.

Although Scotswood has a high turnover of tenants, a report recently put the number of empty homes at 27, approaching one sixth of the es-

tate. This is near the level of "empties" before the start of the City Challenge programme — despite hundreds of homes being demolished.

David Butler, Newcastle city council's housing director, says some people are now expressing concern about the stability of the community,

with its high movement of population. As tenants leave, council workmen move in to board up houses with thick metal plates to keep the vandals at bay. "It's a thankless task," says one. They are good houses no one wants.

But brand new homes are causing the most concern. A

few hundred yards from the site of Scotswood's old post office, burned out and demolished in the rioting, the North British Housing Association — an agency funded by the Housing Corporation — completed a block of low-rise flats three years ago. It cost £1.7 million. Yet only 11 of the 50

homes are occupied. The rest are boarded up.

"Some have never been lived in," laments Colin Pattinson, the North British regional operations director. "People are voting with their feet in this part of Newcastle. It is much the same in other cities, like Manchester and

Leeds." One of the elderly tenants, Pamela Peters, says: "I love my flat. But it's built in the wrong place. I suppose we might have to move."

Like other housing associations, North British, which builds and manages houses from Newcastle to the South-east, says it has pockets of modern, difficult-to-let estates around the country, even in Greater London — the area of the greatest demand.

At Scotswood, it is considering several options, from remodelling the flats to "mothballing".

"But as a last resort, we might have to pull it down," says Mr Pattinson.

Demolition, once again, is on the agenda in Scotswood, and elsewhere.

According to Bob Laurence, chief executive of the Empty Homes Agency, a charity

partly funded by the Department of the Environment that campaigns to put empty properties back into use, the Newcastle estate represents the tip of a huge national problem.

"There are many estates that have been refurbished, or built, in the past 10 years which will be pulled down in the life of this government because better use can be made of the land they are built on," he says. "Billions of pounds have been wasted on some schemes."

Jonathan Blackie, former director of Newcastle City Challenge, admitted there had been unforeseen problems in Scotswood.

"Maybe with hindsight we should have been more radical, although we demolished 400 of the houses. There is still a long way to go."

Vexed business elite to hold Watchdog meeting

Angola rebels create crisis in world diamond trade



Anne Robinson, presenter of BBC1's Watchdog

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE chairman of 10 of the country's biggest companies will meet in London this week to discuss a problem that unites them. What, they will ask, can we do about Watchdog?

BBC's long-running consumer programme has come under fire from companies such as Ford, Dixons and Airtours, after a series of official complaints about the programme's investigative methods have been upheld.

The gathering of the country's business elite shows the level of concern about Watchdog's pursuit of consumer claims. High street retailers, holiday firms and major manufacturers are becoming in-

creasingly disenchanted with the limited redress they are offered, and want the BBC's board of governors to intercede. The programme's controversial use of secret filming and telephone polls are expected to be high on the agenda.

Ford's chairman and managing director, Ian McAllister, is understood to have written to the chairman of major British firms, ranging from BT to Procter and Gamble, urging them to attend the meeting to discuss how they might present a united front to BBC governors.

Watchdog became a BBC success story when its previous editor, Steve Anderson, and the presenter, Anne Robinson, decided to eschew the "potential death-trap" stories made famous by Lynne

Faulds-Wood and take on consumer complaints about big businesses.

The programme has since claimed many high-profile victories, playing a major role in Hoover's free flights debacle and now boasts several spin-off series, including Weekend Watchdog and Watchdog Healthcheck.

With the new editorial line, however, came a marked increase in complaints. The Broadcasting Standards Commission last week upheld four complaints against the programme from Dixons, a Kenyan hotel, Airtours and Parcelforce, taking the total to seven upheld either in full or in part so far this year.

Even a year ago, the BBC director-general, Sir John Birt, noted problems with Watchdog, saying: "Short-

comings in a programme which puts reputations on the line must always be a matter for concern."

The issue for the chairman is the right of a fair reply to allegations of poor customer service made by Watchdog. At present, complaints can be made only after a programme has been transmitted, to either the BBC's internal Programme Complaints Unit or to the external regulator, the BSC.

Even if the BSC upholds a complaint and requires the BBC to broadcast the adjudication, the on-air statement can be 18 months after the offending item was originally shown. The companies feel this is too far after the fact.

A further question troubling the big businesses targeted by Watchdog is why the

head of the BBC's Programme Complaints Unit, Fraser Steel, deals with all complaints made to the BBC, also defends the programme at hearings held by the BSC.

A BBC spokeswoman yesterday said Mr Steel's role was to defend the BBC externally against complaints that he has overruled internally.

A Ford spokesman confirmed that the meeting is to take place, but would not discuss the agenda. He said: "There is going to be a meeting about ongoing media activity but it is a private meeting and we can't discuss what's going to be said."

The companies believed to be attending this week's meeting include the Automobile Association, Airtours, BT, Dixons, Ford, Hotpoint, and Procter and Gamble.

continued from page 1 that could be converted into weapons of war. Now it seems that hope was misplaced.

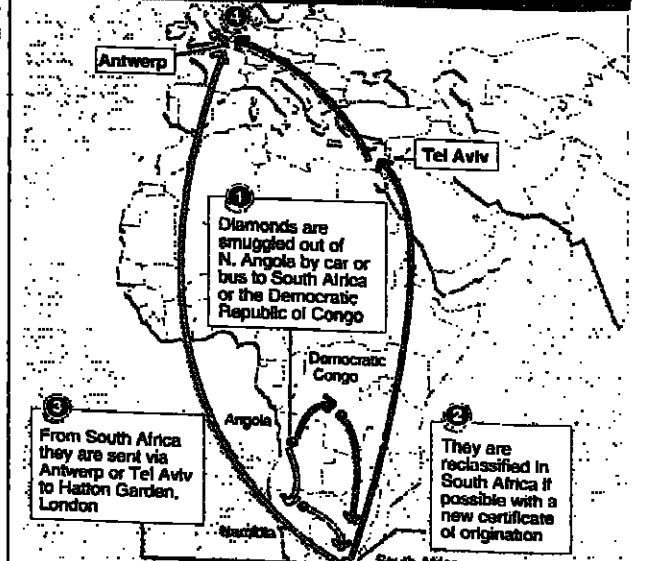
Last week's EU move followed an alleged massacre committed by UNITA troops. Initially, the Brussels decision surprised observers. Not only was it a unilateral action taken apart from existing sanctions in place since 1993 and supported by the UN and the United States, but it came at a time when President Bill Clinton's government was reportedly "re-calibrating" its foreign policy to rely less on punitive embargoes of this sort.

A spokesman in Brussels confirmed that enforcement of the blockade was a matter for individual member states. Given Antwerp's role as the hub of all European diamond trading, this puts additional strain on Belgium's law-enforcement community.

More generally, the prospect of a wholesale collapse in the diamond price could send shockwaves around the world. Not only will jewellers and other players in the business suffer, but millions who had counted diamond jewellery as among their most precious assets would see them lose value sharply.

Only if the EU sanctions keep the illicit stones off the market does there seem to be any prospect of stabilising diamond prices in the near future.

The diamond routes



Peekaboo aplenty but all this gender-bending can prove a bit of a drag

Review

Tim Ashley

Le Comte Ory
Glyndebourne

SEX and sacrilege are the principal themes of *Le Comte Ory*, Rossini's first performed in Paris in 1828. It's an ambiguous, wickedly funny piece — at once hedonistic, lascivious and dark — that comments wryly on sexual stereotypes and analyses

religious credulity with razor-sharp wit.

Ory, a randy aristocrat, is hell-bent on having his way with the Countess Adele. Adele, who hides her emotions behind an impressive front, has taken a vow of celibacy and lives in semi-cloistered seclusion, though she secretly has the hots for Ory's page, Isolier (the role is sung by a mezzo-soprano in disguise).

Determined to break down her resistance, Ory attempts to smarm his way into her all-female circle, posing first as a wonder-working hermit, then as a nun.

The climax of the piece is an astonishing three-in-a-bed trio, in which Isolier, making love to the Countess, is groped in turn by Ory, who believes him to be Adele.

The Glyndebourne production, by Jérôme Savary, founder of Le Grand Magic Circus, was considered something of a bit-and-miss affair when it opened last year, and some of its problems remain. The tone, in particular, is uncertain. High camp alternates with stretches of unaccountable ordinariness, especially in the first act.

The opera works equally well as knockabout farce or

dark comedy; by steering the opera's peekaboo sexiness, an essential element of its impact in 1828: massive codpieces for the blokes, topless chorus girls romping in bathtubs, and so on.

What make the production unmissable are two marvellous performances. French soprano Annick Massis, who plays Adele, is a great artist, her peevish voice, astonishing technique, exquisite sense of line and flawless coloratura unrivalled in this music. Only slightly less impressive is Danish mezzo Hanne Fischer, making her debut,

who sings with a creamy rich tone and fleshes out Isolier's character with a touching warmth that far transcends Savary's constricting caricature.

Marc Laho, meanwhile, flings himself into the role with glee, relishing his multiple disguises, though vocally he takes a while to settle down.

The conductor, Yves Abel, has a scrupulous sense of pace and a punchy brilliance; he gets blazing playing from the LPO and there's not a note out of place in Rossini's phenomenal, if fiendishly tricky ensembles.

مكتبة الادب



Hillary Clinton (right) talks with film star Kim Basinger, co-host of the weekend's final celebrity fund-raiser in East Hampton on Long Island

PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN JAFFE

Clinton swaps scandal for stars

Enclave of the rich coughs up \$2 million to schmooze with America's embattled president

Joanna Coles
in East Hampton,
Long Island

JONATHAN Sheffer had painted his grass green. It was green before but the New York conductor wanted it greener. It's not every day you play host to the president and, understandably given the competition, Mr Sheffer wanted his \$1.4 million (\$250,000) "English barn-house and

pool" to look perfect. And frankly, competition to hold the best fund-raising party in the Hamptons this weekend was fierce. Obviously, there was no point jostling for first place. That had been bagged by the film director Steven Spielberg, who had Bill and Hillary Clinton as house guests in "Quelie Barn", his magnificent 19th-century French farm building on eight acres. Secured with cameras and high hedges, the Spiel-

berg home was thought to provide the most privacy — though as the news broke that a sample of the president's blood was needed for "genetic testing" in the investigation into whether he covered up an alleged affair with a White House intern, one couldn't help but think the biggest threat to the president's security right now is himself. After the Spielberg comp, who took second place? True, the financier Bruce Wasserstein — holding Friday night's festivities in the \$9.5 million (\$2.75 million) Cranberry Dune — could provide a much, much bigger house than Mr Sheffer, with an interior stretching 14,000 sq ft and 27 acres of blissful ocean-front. Cranberry Dune is also of European descent, and older than Mr Sheffer's 110-year-old dwelling, quite a lot older in fact. It, too, is a barn, "a 16th century Scottish barn-house" to be precise, each stone carefully transplanted across the Atlantic and plunked down right next to Billy Joel's house. The music producer Quincy Jones and Donna Karan would also be attending the Wasserstein do (Mr Sheffer had managed to secure Julie Andrews).

The Wasserstein menu listed "smoked salmon in cucumber cup with caviar mouseline, duck prosciutto and white peach chutney on a corn crepe". And that was just for start-

ers. The main course was "lobster, squid salad with Louisiana shrimp served with avocado, hearts of palm and roasted tuna wrapped in bacon with roasted asparagus". (Too busy schmoozing, the Clintons had a quiet supper later at the Spielbergs.) No wonder Mr Sheffer, founder of the Eos Chamber Ensemble, and his partner Christopher, a doctor, plumped at his Saturday cocktails for a simple platter of "salmon, pecan chicken and prosciutto". Besides, the Wasserstein tickets were each \$25,000 (\$15,150) whereas Mr Sheffer had kept the price down to \$5,000 (\$3,030). But then he had invited more people. And for \$250 you could stand on the very green lawn and stare at those who could afford to mingle with the president.

"Gay men and lesbians know what's it like to be vilified, to be stereotyped, to be persecuted," Mr Sheffer told his guests by way of introduction, referring to the investigation of Mr Clinton's sex life by the special prosecutor, Kenneth Starr. "Mr President, I want you to know today you are among friends." The crowd, furiously sipping cocktails, applauded cheerfully and Mr Clinton grinned his thanks, joking that he knew the changes he had made across America would result in political enemies. "But I didn't

know it would be quite as profound as it has been, this reaction!" Waving their margaritas, the crowd murmured supportively. By Saturday night, it was time for fund-raiser number three as the Oscar-winning Kim Basinger and her husband, the actor and now political campaigner, Alec Baldwin, opened their 18th-century farmhouse. Again, it was a brutally tiered event, with the 800 local supporters who forked out \$250 being herded into a tent on the lawn where they were rationed to one doughnut each and a cup of cold corn soup. To eat seared tuna inside the house, once the honeymoon retreat of Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller

— and later the setting for his play *After the Fall* — cost a full \$5,000. By the end of the night, the Clintons had scooped up \$2 million (\$1.2 million). Mr Baldwin seemed anxious to clarify that he was not actually "hosting" the event. He explained that the National Democratic Committee had asked him if he would lead his house for the evening. Asked if he thought residents and holidaymakers would mind the weekend of Clintonian traffic chaos in the area, Mr Baldwin was characteristically blunt. "So they're going to be inconvenienced for a day? Boo hoo. Oh boo hoo!"

Call for truth, page 6

Ministers turn on Field as benefits row erupts

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

THE bitterness between Frank Field and the Government over benefits reform exploded into the open yesterday as senior ministers rounded on the former welfare minister for demanding a cabinet job. Attacks by the cabinet "enforcer", Jack Cunningham, and the Social Security Secretary, Alistair Darling, came after Mr Field launched a barrage of criticism against his former boss, Harriet Harman, accusing her of blocking his attempts to shake up the welfare system. Although Downing Street insisted it was seeking to draw a line under the affair, the hurling of claim and counter-claim did nothing to damp down a row rumbling since Mr Field resigned from the Government a week ago in Mr Blair's first reshuffle after losing his job as minister for welfare reform.

Mr Field — who kept his head down yesterday after giving a series of Sunday newspaper interviews — was comprehensively put down by ministers and, more viciously, in background briefings from cabinet sources. Besides attacking Mr Harman for obstructing his ideas, Mr Field also warned that Gordon Brown's plans for means-testing benefits would "corrupt" the poor by failing to reward thriftiness and self-reliance. In another dig at the Chancellor, he also suggested that Mr Brown's policy for encouraging the unemployed back to work, the working families tax credit, left the way open for unscrupulous employees and bosses to defraud the system.

Government moves to end the row began with Mr Cunningham, who told Sky News that Mr Field had not wanted to stay in his current job but did not find other offers acceptable. "That's not the kind of pressure any prime minister is going to accept," he said. Later, Mr Darling said giving Mr Field the top job at the Department of Social Security would have been impossible. In a coded comment reinforcing Downing Street's message

that Mr Field's approach was excessively theoretical, he stressed that eventually ministers had to bring in practical measures.

He told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*: "While of course there is room for debate and discussion and argument about the whole nature of reform and the welfare state, there does come a time when you've got to move from these general discussions to what is practically possible." The Tories said Downing Street attacks on Mr Field had "highlighted the hole at the heart of the Government's welfare reform programme". Shadow social security minister Iain Duncan Smith said: "By claiming that Frank Field's ideas were unrealistic, the Government have admitted that no real welfare reform was taking place."

Ms Harman, now on holiday with her family, maintained her policy of "dignified silence" in the face of Mr Field's criticisms. In a bitter account of alleged backstabbing he suffered as minister for welfare reform, Mr Field said: "It was like grafting someone else's organ on to a body. Chances of rejection are pretty great. That's what happened. What became clear was that the only way it could work was for the person who was running the department to be in charge of welfare reform."

Allies of Ms Harman angrily denied the claims yesterday. One said: "If he [Mr Field] was so principled and felt so badly, why didn't he resign earlier?" Suggestions from anonymous sources in some papers that Mr Blair's impatience with the former minister would extend to standing aside if his Birkenhead constituency party chose not to reselect him were firmly denied by the local party yesterday. A party meeting last Friday unanimously supported a motion endorsing his reasons for resigning.

The former minister is due to make a speech to the Social Market Foundation on Thursday, where he is expected to continue to criticise Mr Brown's alleged attempts to block his welfare reform plans.

Roy Hattersley, page 8

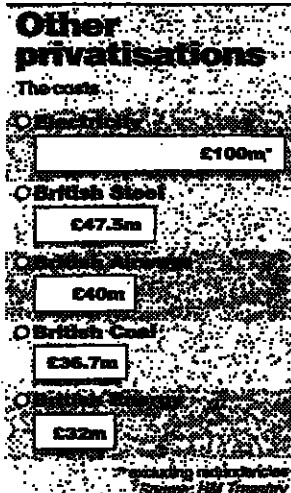


Actor and activist Alec Baldwin with President Clinton

£1.4bn tag makes rail sell-off the dearest privatisation by far

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAIL privatisation cost the taxpayer almost £1.4 billion, by far the most expensive sell-off of all the industries privatised by the Tories, confirmed in official figures obtained by the Guardian last night. The figures reveal that privatisation has so far cost the Government £680 million in fees and direct payments. But the figures, from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, include a further £100 million for disruption to British Rail staff who would normally have carried out other work. There is also £510 million in redundancy payments between 1991-96 in the lead-up to privatisation. Some of these made redundant would have left the industry whether it was privatised or not. They departed as BR struggled to balance its books in the early 1990s. The trouble became a rush as some 40,000 staff gave up their jobs. The £680 million figure is the most important. It accounts for payments to the Department of Transport and British Rail to lawyers, banks, advisers and analysts. They were responsible for drawing up plans to restructure, franchise and regulate the new railway industry. Teams worked round the clock in a frantic exercise which few thought the Tories could pull off.



'In the past six years, my department will have spent £91.7m. BR and Railtrack will have spent £417.2m'
Sir George Young
February 1997

In a parliamentary answer in February 1997, the then Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, gave a figure of £530 million. He said: "In the six years since 1990-91, my department will have spent £91.7 million in restructuring, privatising, franchising and regulating the new railway industry. Details of costs incurred by British Rail and Railtrack are a matter for them, but I understand they estimate they will have spent £417.2 million. In addition, the office of passenger rail franchising and the office of the rail regulator will have spent £121.1 million." The Treasury admitted yesterday that rail had "easily" been the most expensive pri-

vatization. Electricity privatization fell well behind at £100 million, although this figure excludes redundancies. Rail was the most complicated of all the privatisations. As soon as John Major decided on the rush for privatization before the election, BR was given the difficult task of selling off the 100 parts of BR in effect 100 different companies. A senior BR source said yesterday that it had contributed £250 million of the £680 million. The Tory government was so anxious to get the industry into the private sector that it set BR unrealistic targets. BR was ordered to sell off different parts by a specific date. If it failed to achieve the sale in time, it had to get the best price it could, which in many cases was not the best market price. In the lead-up to privatisation, the government reduced BR's subsidy, until it was just under £1 billion in the final year before the sell-off. The subsidy was doubled to £2 billion in the first year of privatisation. It is now being gradually reduced. This year it is around £1.7 billion, but will reduce to £1 billion by 2002. All 25 train operating companies receive a subsidy, except Gatwick Express, Thameslink has received £2.5 million in subsidy this year, but is about to start paying back money to the Treasury next year. Many of the companies receive large subsidies. Regional Railways North East currently gets £140 million and ScotRail £127 million. Some in the industry question whether a number of companies will be able to keep going without further cash injections from the Treasury and whether they will be in a position to start paying money back. Virgin, which operates the west coast mainline between London and Glasgow, is investing millions in new trains. This year its subsidy is £76 million, but within four years its owner, Richard Branson, must start reimbursing the Treasury, with an initial payment of almost £4 million.

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Agent spent year playing cat and mouse with MI5

Former officer seems to have withdrawal symptoms, reports Richard Norton-Taylor

EVER since David Shayler fled to France a year ago after revealing how MI5 held files on individuals, including Labour ministers, it once considered potentially subversive, the agency and its renegade officer have been playing a game of cat and mouse.

Once the initial flurry of newspaper interest died down, Mr Shayler seemed to suffer withdrawal symptoms as he ruefully contemplated his future at a farmhouse lent to him by a friend. He wrote the occasional article, mainly calling for greater independent accountability of MI5.

He wrote to John Alpass, the Government's intelligence and security co-ordinator, and to the cross-party parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, outlining proposals for reform. Not surprisingly, he received short shrift.

He also made tantalising allegations about particular MI5 operations. He alleged that MI5 was tipped off in advance of the 1994 bombing of the Israeli embassy in London but did nothing. He said the MI5 officer who received the tip-off tried to cover up her error after the blast — which injured 13 people — by burying it in a filing cabinet.

The disclosure was sanctioned by Jack Straw, the

Home Secretary, who said that while Mr Shayler was still bound by a duty of confidence, there was a distinction between "fair criticism" of MI5 and disclosures which would harm national security. Mr Straw added that it was not the case that "such information" MI5 possessed would have enabled it to prevent the bombing. However, Whitehall sources acknowledged that Mr Shayler's allegations had some basis in fact but his conclusion was wrong.

This year Mr Shayler said that an IRA attack that devastated part of the City of London and caused damage estimated at £1 billion, should have been avoided. He said he had compiled a dossier on MI5's "operational inefficiency" in which he spelled out "how the attack on the shops in the City in April 1993... shouldn't have happened".

Annie Machon, Mr Shayler's girlfriend who is also a former MI5 officer, alleged that the agency spent tens of thousands of pounds staking out annual social weekends of the Socialist Workers Party at Skegness "even though the only activity was excessive drinking and an occasion for the 'comrades' to pair up". MI5 continued to monitor SWP jamborees until 1993, she said.



David Shayler and Annie Machon. PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP IDE

An attempt by John Wadham, Mr Shayler's lawyer and director of the civil rights group Liberty, to reach a deal with the Treasury Solicitor, broke down after MI5 insisted on vetting — and claiming copyright on — anything Mr Shayler wrote in future about the security services, whether or not publication was in the "public interest". The implication was that John Morris,

the Attorney-General, was prepared to drop the threat of an Official Secrets Act prosecution.

MI5's hierarchy, meanwhile, was engaged in an intense debate about how to respond to its renegade officer. Doves argued it was worth pursuing a deal whereby he would promise not to disclose operational secrets, and that a criminal trial would be

risky in that a jury might not convict and that in any case it would lead to more unwanted publicity about MI5's activities.

The hawks — who appear to have persuaded the attorney and those ministers he consulted, notably Jack Straw — argued that not to prosecute would have given the wrong signal both to the public and other potential whistleblowers.

They also argued that Mr Shayler — who threatened to disclose further details of MI5 activities on the Internet — could not be trusted.

Mr Shayler's criticisms of MI5 were echoed by Richard Tomlinson, a former MI6 officer who also threatened to disclose embarrassing information about Britain's overseas intelligence service on the Internet after he was sacked in 1995.

He became the first MI6 officer to be prosecuted for secrets offences since the Soviet spy George Blake 37 years ago.

He pleaded guilty to breaching the Official Secrets Act and was released from jail last year after a 12-month sentence for sending a synopsis of a book to an Australian publisher.

The Government is faced with another secrets trial. Last month a Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Navy, Steven Hayden, was charged with breaching the Official Secrets Act, allegedly relating to the leak of a document about the biological warfare threat posed by Saddam Hussein.

Leader comment, page 9



George Brown during his time in the Wilson cabinet, which he made many threats to quit

Wilson fought Clyde Shipyard rescue plan

George Brown's scheme to enlist investment from Maxwell and Lever led to fierce battle with prime minister, writes Alan Travis

GEORGE Brown, the late foreign secretary, secretly set up a private investment syndicate with Robert Maxwell and Harold Lever, then both extremely wealthy backbench Labour MPs, to take part in a Treasury-backed attempt to rescue a big Scottish shipyard facing bankruptcy, according to newly released papers at the Public Record Office.

By modern standards this might well be regarded as "corrupt cronyism", and even in 1965 it so alarmed the prime minister, Harold Wilson, and James Callaghan, chancellor of the Exchequer, that they fought a fierce battle at the top of the Labour government to kill the scheme.

It was seen as "politically unwise" and went well beyond any cabinet-sanctioned attempt to save the yard.

This internal cabinet struggle over the closure of the Fairfield's Yard on Clyde-side, which Mr Brown was to reopen as the Upper Clyde Shipyard in the first partial shipyard nationalisation of the 1960s, was never made public at the time.

The state papers also throw light on one of the more celebrated of Mr Brown's many resignation threats made during his three years in the Wilson cabinet. This was the mystery of why he refused to apologise for calling the media baron Lord Thomson "a bloody bastard" in the Sunday Times and Scottish Television, a cheat and a liar during a disastrous after-dinner speech in London.

At the time it was believed to be connected with the Philby affair, but the papers reveal that this public insult delivered to a man sitting beside him had everything to do with the Fairfield's syndicate.

There were so many resignation threats made by Mr Brown during his time as first secretary in charge of the Department of Economic Affairs and then as foreign secretary, that Mr Wilson's secretary, Marcia Falkender, kept them in a special Down-

ing Street file labelled: "First Secretary (Resignations) File". Its contents, just released under the 30-year rule, show that Mr Brown threatened to resign on at least eight occasions — most of them late at night.

Indeed, so patient was Mr Wilson with a man who described his own behaviour as "tired and overwrought", that he even shared the joke that soon gripped the satirists and the nation. At one particularly heated moment the official record says the PM "remarked jokingly and picking up the thread of earlier argument, that now that the 16th resignation was out of the way, they could discuss the matter further when the occasion came for the 17th. At this stage the Foreign Secretary again exploded and returned to the Foreign Office," it records.

One of these famous "explosions" took place over his attempt to rescue the Fairfield's Yard and its 5,000 workforce, then in the hands of the receivers, Robert Maxwell and Harold Lever, who were the two richest Labour MPs at the time.

Mr Brown and his wife Sophie spent their summer holidays in the south of France with Mr Lever. Maxwell, according to Brown's biographer, Peter Paterson, had told Mr Brown that a lucrative job at his Pergamon Press publishing company was his for the asking if ever he did leave the government.

A "Secret Note for the Record" written by Michael Hall, the prime minister's principal private secretary, says that Mr Callaghan told Mr Wilson on the evening of December 17, 1965, that he understood George Brown, as first secretary and head of the Department of Economic Affairs, was negotiating for the creation of a syndicate which included as members Harold Lever and Robert Maxwell.

"He thought this might be politically unwise and it certainly went beyond the terms of the Cabinet decision of last

week on Fairfield's. The Prime Minister agreed and said that any scheme which involved the participation as partners of Labour MPs must be put to ministers collectively again."

Mr Callaghan decided to tell Douglas Jay as president of the Board of Trade that he was not prepared to give any Treasury approval for government funds to be used in this venture. "He also noted the fact that there was some doubt whether the two members concerned would be entitled to vote in any division involving Fairfield's, and if they were not, no government majority could be obtained for it."

After Mr Brown was told by Downing Street he would need cabinet approval for the scheme, the first secretary rang Mr Callaghan. Mr Brown told him he proposed to clinch the deal and bring it to Cabinet on Tuesday. This threat collapsed in the face of the chancellor's firm refusal, backed by Mr Wilson, to allow any public money to be spent on the syndicate.

In the end Mr Brown did manage to put together a group of Scottish industrialists to participate in the first partial nationalisation of a shipyard under the 1960s Labour government.

The affair also explains the mystery of Mr Brown's gross public insult to Lord Thomson two years later at a Savoy dinner hosted by the media tycoon. At the time Mr Brown was engaged in a war with the Sunday Times over its attempt to interview Kim Philby in Moscow.

He had attacked the paper as morally wrong to enter into negotiations with a traitor. During his speech Mr Brown stunned the audience by announcing that Lord Thomson was "the only man I have ever known who cheated me — You actually pay the yob bond and then broke it".

The state papers record that "it was nothing to do with Philby but to do with the fact that Lord Thomson had gone back on his promised participation in the Fairfield Company."

It turned out that Lord Thomson had agreed to make a substantial investment in the syndicate but in the event one of his subsidiary companies only put in £150,000.

Crisis at exam board hits pupils

Vivek Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

TEACHING unions and the Government yesterday demanded a review from one of the country's largest examination boards after fears that thousands of pupils could receive wrong A-level results.

The prospect of a calamity over this year's results, due on August 20, has emerged after problems with a new computer system installed at the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations and Assessment Council.

Reportedly, some students have been entered, via the computer, for subjects they have not studied. In some cases the computer did not enter names at all, meaning students' chances of going to university could be jeopardised.

A spokesman for the Department of Education said: "Ministers would be very concerned if there was any danger of students not receiving correct results on the due date. We will be seeking reassurance from Oxford and Cambridge officials that they will meet the August 20 deadline for accurate results."

Concerns over the new computer system first arose in May when schools had still not received confirmation about the candidates they had entered.

There have also been problems in getting examination papers to students and, according to one report, the computer failed to produce the forms on which teachers forecast grades, though some pupils had already sat exams.

The system then did not produce enough labels for sending the papers to examiners.

The examination board agreed yesterday there had

been problems, but said all pupils would receive the correct results by August 20. "There was a delay in getting all the right papers to the right schools and colleges. But [the problems] were sorted out very early on. The papers are just waiting to be graded," said a spokesman.

But the National Union of Teachers wants the board to look into its handling of this year's A-levels. A spokeswoman said: "We need to be sure that the board has sorted out its problems before next year's examinations. Problems like this cause great stress to teachers and pupils

and it is very worrying that thousands of pupils could be left in limbo. These examinations are crucial, they can decide the future of a pupil."

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said that to avoid future confusion, a national, centralised exam board to improve communication with schools, might be appropriate.

Last year, the Oxford and Cambridge Examinations and Assessment Council was at the centre of another scandal when it was wrongly accused of favouring candidates from independent schools.

Manufacturing problems hit anti-Aids drug

Sarah Bosseley
Health Correspondent

A CRUCIAL drug in the combination therapy cocktails which have helped many HIV positive people from the threat of Aids is about to run out because of problems in the manufacturing process.

There is one month's supply of ritonavir (brand name Norvir) capsules left in the world, according to the pharmaceutical company Abbott, which makes it. Some 2,000 people in Britain are taking the drug, a protease inhibitor, and a great

many more worldwide, especially in the US.

Abbott hopes those taking ritonavir will switch to the liquid form, with which there is no problem, but according to Lisa Power of the Terrence Higgins Trust, its bitter taste is unpalatable to many.

Those who cannot take the liquid will have to switch to another protease inhibitor. There are four, including ritonavir, but most people who are HIV positive take a combination of three drugs, one of which is a protease inhibitor.

Any change means a period of adjustment to the initial side effects of these strong

medicines. "They can include nausea, fatigue and disorientation," said Ms Power.

"We are trying to avoid a situation where people turn up at the pharmacist to find the cupboard is bare," said Ms Power.

Abbott's scientists cannot understand why every batch of ritonavir is failing to come up to standard. The drug is forming a different crystalline structure which makes it less soluble, so the correct dose of drug is not released inside the patient's body.

"We don't know what has caused this," said Mark Haywood, managing director

of Abbott Laboratories UK. "We have pulled together a group of world experts working around the clock to try to solve the problem."

Combination therapy has enabled many people with HIV to feel well and confident enough to return to work, and prevented many people developing Aids. But the drug combinations in the right doses and at the right times are critical to prevent the virus mutating and becoming resistant to the medication.

When, because of non-compliance, and in some cases it seems, despite strict compliance with the regime, the

drugs stop having an effect, it is necessary to change the combination people are on.

But there are a limited number of drugs and a limited number of combinations possible.

Many HIV sufferers fear they may one day run out of options unless pharmaceutical companies invent new medicines.

The trust and Abbott UK Ltd, based in Maidenhead, Berkshire, are trying to inform people in advance of the problem. Abbott has launched a helpline, on 0800 0183 840, and a website at <http://www.norvir.com>.

New Labour women MPs face 'super-couple' crisis

Rory Carroll

LABOUR women MPs who entered Parliament on a wave of euphoria are sitting on a time-bomb of failed relationships, no sex, unhappiness and loneliness, according to a new survey by a clinical psychologist, who runs a therapy practice in North Carolina.

He and his wife Mary, a marriage counsellor, hope to visit Britain to help MPs avert the "three Ds" which have doomed American couples: drained, downcast and divorced. Evidently romance can also produce TINS couples — two incomes no sex.

The Stoties believe the women catapulted to Westminster in Labour's election triumph are unprepared for the havoc that afflicts high-flyers.

Male MPs are safer from the syndrome because their partners are less likely to be in full-time employment. Last March a survey by psychologists from the University of Manchester showed that the mental health of first time MPs was worse than a matched group of candidates before the election.

Labour's female backbenchers recorded the highest levels of burnout, possibly because many did not expect to be elected and were unprepared for juggling career and home. They displayed anxiety, stress, depression, fatigue

and low self-esteem. A group of new MPs have formed a self-help group which meets about once a month in the Commons.

Dr Stotie said therapy techniques pioneered in America, which turned stressed supercouples into "dynamic duos", were needed in Britain.

"The Blair's are beautiful examples of the dynamic duo. They seem to have it all, highly successful careers yet focused on each other. It's the rest of the party I worry about."

Based on a 20-year career of counselling more than 5,000 couples, the Stoties have constructed a nine-step programme, Beating Stress Together (BEST), which they hope to introduce to

Westminster. Tips include: set lunch in silence at least once a week, show humanity to a trusted aide by disclosing a worry or regret.

The advice sparked indignation among MPs. Helen Brinton, who won Peterborough for Labour, said it patronised women. "If the Stoties do come I certainly won't be going to any of their seminars. This is a new job and a tough one but I'm glad I'm in it."

However Anne Campbell, Labour MP for Cambridge since 1992, said the Stoties would find a constituency. "It's all about survival techniques. My husband has quite a high-powered job so we make sure to make time for each other. Some MPs have yet to learn."

One coach stopped were loose, while another had a defective braking system, police said. As well as the mechanical faults detected, 532 other offences were reported, including drivers working excessive hours.

Chief Inspector Richard Pearce of Avon and Somerset, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Sadly there is no improvement in the percentage of defects compared with last year."

A NATIONWIDE safety check on coaches and buses has found that one in eight vehicles stopped had mechanical faults, police said yesterday. Operation Tourist stopped 2,122 passenger vehicles during Saturday's blitz in 40 police areas.

Faults were found on 365 of the vehicles, with 97 being ordered off the road immediately. The remaining 168 were given 10 days to carry out repairs. The wheel nuts on

one coach stopped were loose, while another had a defective braking system, police said. As well as the mechanical faults detected, 532 other offences were reported, including drivers working excessive hours.

Chief Inspector Richard Pearce of Avon and Somerset, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Sadly there is no improvement in the percentage of defects compared with last year."

A year ago, the infamous "demon eyes" campaign launched the slogan "New Labour, New Danger" — but that last catchphrase is now erased from the script.

In its place come more down-to-earth assaults such as "Labour is bad for business".

Tory officials deny there is an organised campaign to promote "Haguepeak".

But one former minister yesterday said the updating process reflected a need to find new ways to chime Labour that would chime

Hague hones Tories' jibes

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

NEW Tories, new script. William Hague is out to prove his party is adapting to the altered political landscape by updating the list of insults aimed at Labour.

Key speeches made by the Conservative leader and his team in Parliament, and on the road, suggest that phrases that once served as familiar brickbats against Labour have been quietly dropped from the Tory vocabulary.

A year ago, the infamous "demon eyes" campaign launched the slogan "New Labour, New Danger" — but that last catchphrase is now erased from the script.

In its place come more down-to-earth assaults such as "Labour is bad for business".

Tory officials deny there is an organised campaign to promote "Haguepeak".

But one former minister yesterday said the updating process reflected a need to find new ways to chime Labour that would chime

with the concerns of the public.

Mr Hague and his frontbenchers are enjoying a better opportunity than normal to discover the aspects of New Labour most alarming the electorate in a year-long set of public meetings under the banner "Listening to Britain".

The key to the change of emphasis lies in Mr Hague's desire to steer clear of his party's traditional assaults on Labour's trade union past, which no longer have an impact on voters watching the Government play tough with the unions.

So, out go references to a "return to Old Labour" and "back to tax and spend", which proved ineffective in the general election. Instead, we have sober warnings over Labour economic policy, combined with a new favourite, "Labour's broken promises".

There are also catchphrases on the theme of style over substance, often assisted by ridicule of a term from which the Government dissociates itself — Cool Britannia.

Voters' doubts over Labour's spin-doctoring and

strong emphasis on presentation will be played upon with frequent use of words such as "fiddle" and "superficial".

Ann Widdecombe, the shadow health minister, said the switch was less a formal agreement than a common feeling that certain phrases describe New Labour particularly well.

She said: "The phrase 'style over substance' is certainly one I use often because it happens to be one I think the Labour Government has got wrong. The shadow culture minister Peter Ainsworth last week managed to use it four times in just over a minute."

The Tories gained their first taste of a new insult striking home last year, when the Government's embarrassment over the donation from Formula One boss Bernie Ecclestone, and the offshore trust of the Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, was met with cries of "Saying one thing and doing another".

More recently, Mr Hague hit home with a jibe at "Tony's Cronies" — on Labour's alleged links with lobbyists.

6 WORLD NEWS

News in brief

Taliban army takes rival stronghold

AFGHANISTAN'S Taliban militia yesterday claimed it had captured the stronghold of General Rashid Dostam, putting it on the doorstep of the main headquarters of the opposition coalition.

Mullah Omar, a Taliban spokesman, said his fighters had taken many prisoners in the town of Sheberghan. Azadullah Shasaa, a spokesman for the Hizbe Wahadat militia, one of Gen Dostam's partners, confirmed that Sheberghan had fallen, but said Gen Dostam had suffered few casualties and had retreated south to Sariful.

The next Taliban target is likely to be Mazar-e-Sharif, 60 miles east of Sheberghan. Mazar-e-Sharif is the headquarters of Ahmed Shah Massoud, the military chief who was chased from the Afghan capital by the Taliban army in 1996.

Mullah Omar said Taliban fighters were already making gains around Mazar-e-Sharif. — AP, Kabul.

Hutu rebels kill 110

HUTU rebels armed with machetes and clubs backed to death 110 people in attacks north-west of the Rwandan capital, an army commander, Colonel Fred Imugira, said yesterday.

He said the rebels occurred late on Friday in Rubeta and Raba communes, 30 miles from Kigali. Wallis Gasemagere, the senior official in Kigali rural prefecture, said people recognised some of the attackers and captured one. Soldiers were searching for the rebels, who had probably been hiding in the heavily forested north-west corner of the country, he said.

The attack was the worst since the rebels — former Hutu soldiers and militiamen — killed, backed to death and then burned 34 people last month at an inn on the main road from Kigali to the north-west. — AP, Kigali.

Some Sydney water clean

WATER in 8 per cent of Sydney households was declared fit to drink yesterday, though the rest of the city's 3.7 million residents must still boil their water before a dangerous parasite is flushed from the system.

The outbreak of the parasites *giardia* and *cryptosporidium* has been an international embarrassment to the city that will host the summer Olympics in two years.

No illnesses have been reported since the parasites were found in the water supply last week. But they have an incubation period of a week or more, so it may take several more days for health problems to develop. *Cryptosporidium* in Milwaukee's water in 1993 contributed to about 100 deaths. More than 400,000 others fell ill.

The cause of the contamination is unclear. Officials have not found evidence that animal carcasses found in or near an open canal leading to a filtration plant were the source. — AP, Sydney.

Second cell-death at Hague

THE Yugoslav war crimes tribunal said yesterday it would launch an internal inquiry into the death of a second detained suspect in just over a month.

Milan Kovacevic, a Bosnian Serb aged 57, died in his cell on Saturday morning of a heart attack. He was the only suspect on trial for genocide, accused of organising the dispatch of prisoners to the death camp at Omarska, where thousands of Muslims and Croats were raped, tortured and killed.

"All aspects of the death will be looked into," a Hague tribunal spokesman, Christian Charter, said.

One of Mr Kovacevic's lawyers said tribunal officials failed to give his client, who had a history of health problems, adequate medical treatment, but another lawyer said a doctor gave him medication on Friday night.

On June 29, a former Serb mayor of Vukovar, Slavko Dokmanovic, hanged himself in his cell as the tribunal judges were considering their verdict. An internal inquiry exonerated Hague prison officials. — Reuters, Amsterdam.

Burma sit-in 'was planned'

A MEMBER of Burma's ruling junta, has delivered a strong attack on the democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, accusing her of colluding with foreign embassies to incite unrest, state newspapers said yesterday.

Khin Nyunt, first secretary of the State Peace and Development Council, was quoted as saying that Ms Suu Kyi's recent six-day car sit-in protest, when she was stopped from visiting supporters in the provinces, was an orchestrated attempt to "incite riots and cause unrest".

He said when she set out on her trip last week she took enough food to last a week. Leaders of her National League for Democracy and some embassies had been informed of her daily activities, rehearsed her plan and then condemned the government.

The Nobel Peace laureate was stopped at a bridge near a village on July 24 and ordered to return to Yangon. She refused and began a sit-in protest instead, until security personnel forcibly removed her from her car on July 29 and took her home.

"All national peoples are duty bound to crush the minions of the colonialists," Mr Khin Nyunt said. — Reuters, Yangon.

Diamond boss gunned down

THE head of Russia's largest diamond-processing company was shot and killed in a suspected contract murder, Russian state television reported yesterday.

The bullet-ridden body of Alexander Shkudov, executive director of the Kristall diamond company and president of the Russian Association of Diamond Processors, was found on Saturday outside Sverdlovsk, in a road leading to his country home.

Kristall had recently reached an agreement with other Russian companies to market its diamonds directly, bypassing the South African De Beers cartel, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported. — AP, Moscow.

London urged as location for new centre to help opposition groups trying to overthrow Iraqi regime

US plans anti-Saddam base

Gary Young in Washington

THE United States wants London to become a base for assisting organisations committed to overthrowing and dismantling the Baghdad regime, it was revealed yesterday.

A centre for exile activities would train opposition groups in organisation techniques and recruitment, and translate and index millions of seized Iraqi documents as possible evidence in a war crimes prosecution.

The programme, backed by the Clinton administration, would be funded from Washington.

The US Congress has already set aside \$5 million (\$3.2 million)

for an attempt to rebuild Iraq's fractured political opposition and to prepare for a possible indictment of Iraqi leaders for war crimes.

But there are heated disputes between the administration and Republican Congressmen about who should receive the money, which would be provided by the US state department. Recipients are likely to include rival Kurdish factions, and the Iraqi National Congress and the pressure group Indict, both based in London.

The news came as the United Nations chief arms inspector, Richard Butler, arrived in Baghdad on the eighth anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He will hold talks with the deputy

prime minister, Tariq Aziz. A UN economic embargo on Baghdad cannot be lifted until the inspectors certify that the country's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, and missiles with a range of more than 90 miles, have been destroyed.

Official Iraqi newspapers, which claim that Baghdad has already complied with the UN resolution, have accused the team of being a US-backed "lies factory".

The ruling Ba'ath party's Ath-Thawra daily urged Mr Butler "to adhere to his professional and technical duties and to steer clear of any bad political objectives".

The Republican-dominated US Congress has recently stepped up efforts to bring

down President Saddam Hussein, after years of botched attempts. It now appears to consider Britain the most effective location for a base.

Congressmen have been keen to give practical support to Indict, launched last year by the Labour MP Ann Clwyd. The group's aim is to bring President Saddam and other leading Iraqi figures before an international tribunal on charges of war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and crimes against peace.

Indict's work is backed by the leaders of Britain's three main parties.

"President Clinton has been very supportive of Indict," said Ms Clwyd yesterday. "But since the organisa-

tion has been set up, we've had virtually no funds. I spoke to state department officials about a month ago and they said the money was imminent."

The congressional plan aims to give around \$30,000 to co-ordinate the activities of groups fighting against war crimes, and \$235,000 for document translation.

Republican senators have been urging the administration to give most of the money to the Iraqi National Congress and Indict, which work closely together in London, rather than the spread it

around the 75 Iraqi opposition groups it has listed.

"Many of the groups listed number only one person, and several are not even Iraqi,"

said a report from the House of Representatives international relations committee.

But the administration says the INC, an umbrella organisation of anti-Saddam forces, is "an opposition group, not the opposition group", and it has raised legal objections to funding Indict.

Sources in Congress say there is little hope that the plan will remove President Saddam in the near future, but it could encourage a peaceful and swift transition to democracy should the Iraqi leader fall. The administration has also set aside \$3 million for an anti-Saddam "Radio Free Iraq" in Prague, run on similar lines to the US propaganda stations in Germany during the cold war.

Ancient Christian order riven by land sale to Jews

Julian Borger in Bir Zeit on an Arab revolt in the Greek Orthodox Church

THE DUST in the courtyard of St George's Greek Orthodox Church is gathering at an ever-faster pace. Fifty yards uphill in the Palestinian town of Bir Zeit, a formidable Roman Catholic church is nearing completion and the masons' limestone shavings are blowing downwind.

Each day Sami Abu Ghatas Sayij, St George's 75-year-old caretaker, walks past the shining Catholic edifice to his own decrepit chapel and is reminded of the world's iniquity. The Greek Orthodox Church is the oldest, largest and richest Christian denomination in the Middle East, yet it is dying before his eyes.

A long-simmering Arab revolt within the Greek Orthodox Church has erupted in a series of street protests against the Church's hierarchy.

At the weekend, Arab community leaders from Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan met in Amman, to plot ways of wresting control back from the Greek bishops and monks whose power over their congregation remains near-fatal.

Greek Christians have been living in these parched hills since the time of Christ. The Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem dates from AD 135.

Now even its adherents believe the ancient order is



A Greek Orthodox priest walks past graffiti in Jerusalem which says "kill Arabs". The Church has been hit by financial scandal. PHOTOGRAPH: HEIDI LEVINE

entering its last few decades as a living church. Squeezed between Islam and the Jewish State, Christian Arabs are leaving the Palestinian territories for the West in their thousands. And the Greek Orthodox Church is split between the all-Greek synod and its 40,000-strong Palestinian congregation.

Arab discontent boiled over last month after reports emerged that Diodoros I, the Patriarch, had sold Israeli developers long-term leases for valuable tracts of church land in Jaffa, Nazareth and the Galilee region.

The sales galvanised Palestinian activists in the Church. They reawakened the suspicion about where church revenue was going in the absence of published records. And the transfer of territory to Israel was — in Arab eyes — a supreme act of betrayal. Arab land dealers have been shot and dumped

on the street for far less. Since the sales, the Church has been paralysed by tension. The Palestinian congregation takes communion from the Greek bishops on Sunday but fights the Patriarchate with street demonstrations and court cases the rest of the week.

Elias Khoury, a Greek Orthodox lawyer, said he believed that the church hierarchy was earning millions of pounds from land deals.

"It's going into the pockets of the Greek monks and their families, and going back to Greece," he said. "The situation is getting worse all the time."

"The Patriarchate totally neglects the interests of the Orthodox community... Some say that by the year 2020, there will be no community left."

Marwan Tubassi, an activist who has led the demonstrations, complains of a lack of accountability.

"There was supposed to be a mixed council of Palestinians and Greeks but that was disbanded in 1967," he said. "There has not been a financial report since 1964. Meanwhile, there are fewer and fewer churches and schools being built and the ones that are left are in a bad state."

Mr Tubassi said the Amman conference would augur an escalation of the struggle for control of the Church. "This is our Church," he said. "We [the Greeks] are the foreigners here."

The Patriarchate took no part in the gathering. Patriarch Diodoros is in Greece undergoing kidney dialysis, and the secretary-general, Metropolitan Timothy, remained at his Jerusalem office.

The fax confirming an audience with the Metropolitan gave detailed directions to the office in Jerusalem's

Christian quarter. It also offered advice on protocol. He was to be addressed at all times as Your Eminence, "not Dear Father Timothy or Dear Metropolitan or Dear Sir or anything else".

In the flesh, His Eminence wore a dark grey cassock the colour of his foot-long beard. He sat serenely, but his eyes betrayed mounting impatience at the questions put to him.

"The activities of the Patriarchate are beyond all expectations of the Arab population," Metropolitan Timothy said. "The holy synod expects to reorganise the mixed council if political circumstances allow... When that will be, it's not for me to evaluate."

Asked about the absence of Palestinian bishops in the synod, he promised: "There are clergy among the Palestinians who in due time may be elevated to

ranks of bishop when the synod sees fit."

But financial questions drew a heated response: "Why should we issue reports? Does any other church give accounts of its expenses and revenues... We are always open to dialogue, but revolutions can only harm the body of the Church and cause schisms."

From Bir Zeit, once a citadel of Christian Arab wealth and learning, the Church's future looks bleak. Last winter's damp is still seeping through St George's stone cupola as the summer dust drifts by outside.

Mr Sayij still carries neatly folded plans, his memento of school and church that might have been. But his hopes faded long before the architect's ink. "A hundred years ago Bir Zeit was completely Orthodox. Now we are a thousand. Soon there will be no one left," he said.

Republican offers hope of Clinton holding fast

Gary Young in Washington

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton would not have to resign from office if he admitted to the people of the United States that he had a sexual relationship with the White House intern Monica Lewinsky, the head of the Senate judiciary committee said yesterday.

The president would have a reasonable chance of remaining at the top of the system," said Orrin Hatch.

Mr Hatch chairs the committee to which the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr must present his report and other investigations. The committee must then decide whether to lodge articles of impeachment with Congress.

If Congress decided there were grounds for impeachment, the Senate would judge finally whether Mr Clinton should be stripped of the presidency.

"If he comes forth and tells

it and does it in the right way and there aren't a lot of other factors to cause the Congress to say this man is unfit for the presidency and every every benefit of the doubt and show leniency here."

The comments from Mr Hatch — a Republican senator from the highly conservative Mormon-dominated state of Utah — reflect the reluctance of both major parties to remove President Clinton from office prematurely.

Democrats would like to see him stay and clear his name and are happy to keep him so long as his approval ratings remain high.

Republicans balk at the prospect of handing Vice-President Al Gore the keys to the White House, a full two years before he would have to fight for them.

Mr Hatch is set to testify to a grand jury on August 17 on the accusations that he had a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky and then encouraged her to cover it up.

It right, it may be enough to cause people to say 'Hey, look, he is the president, he has two years to go, we may want to give him every every benefit of the doubt and show leniency here'."

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Iranian paper changes name to foil press ban

David Hirst in Beirut

A NEW and successful newspaper took centre stage yesterday in the power struggle in Iran between the president, Mohammad Khatami, and his arch-conservative rivals.

Mr Khatami's government was determined to bring the law into their own hands.

The newly licensed newspaper — *Atfah-e Emrouz* (Today's Sun) — appeared in the same format as *Tous*, which was the same as its Jameh original. It led with an account of an attack by the Ansar-e-Hizbollah on the paper's premises on Saturday, in which Mr Shams was punched.

The fate of Jameh goes to the heart of the power struggle. For the moderates, its closure would be an assault on the greatly expanded freedoms for the conservatives, its publication amounts to an intolerable affront to their power and prestige.

The conservative judiciary, in seeking to suppress Jameh, accused it of publishing false reports and disturbing public order. But the ministry of Islamic guidance, headed by a key Khatami ally, opposed the ban, urging the judiciary to reconsider.

Jameh was an instant success when it appeared in March. Within 100 days it had a readership of 300,000.

Last week after its first ban, it raised the stakes, drawing Mr Khatami himself directly into the fray. A headline quoted him as saying: "Those who oppose freedom in the name of the religion are the enemies of the people."

Another paper, *Khanah*, recently published a letter from a woman criticising the late Ayatollah Khomeini. "Do you want me to follow someone who transformed Iran into an international terrorist state with his order to murder Salman Rushdie."

Last week its editor, Mohammad-Reza Za'eri, was arrested.

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مكتبة الصلح



THE explosion came first — a dull thud echoing through the woods of Banja Kovčevi's Banjice Gorge. A minute later came a second shell, scything above our heads with an audible whoosh towards its target higher up the mountain.

Fehmi Goshi, an ethnic-Albanian refugee from the village of Oriate, on the other side of the mountain, winced and paused as he told how he brought his family of 20 to live in the gorge last week after his home was shelled by Serbian forces and his village was cleared.

man crushed by the expulsion, broken by being forced to walk 10 miles across the hills, his arms crippled, feet to find sanctuary.

Now even the gorge is no longer safe. The shelling from the Serb-controlled town of Komorane has driven many who sought shelter back down the mountain track, in a sorry caravan of crowded, trawled trailers.

It is what the Serb authorities want. Last week a plane dropped leaflets urging the refugees to return and assuring them that they were safe. It is an assurance the refu-

His joy at finding a French-speaker to carry his story to the outside world produced a moment of quiet catharsis: how his family was driven from their home by the soldiers and police and has survived on scraps of food provided by local villagers and guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army, who patrol the gorge and mountainside.

"We came only with what we could carry," he said. "The police came with the soldiers, supported by a large number of tanks. They shelled everything. There were around 60 people injured. Then they burnt our corn."

Mr Goshi said he was able to scrape a hard living for himself and the younger members of his family, life in the woods for his 80-year-old father and his mother is desperate. His father sits bolt upright at night, "because he is the family's only chair. Under his felt cap his expression is of a

horrified man and his eyes are red from tears and blood."

homes and our lives. We are living here like animals — injured animals

grees do not believe. But they know they cannot stay on this high ground, marked on the maps as "Big Bad Mountain".

Surrounded by the Serbs on three sides, the KLA is coming under renewed pressure in this fastness. And as in Junik — also under siege from Serb guns — the civilians are suffering grievously.

"We would like to go back to our homes, but we are not able to," Mr Goshi said. "Our Serb neighbours are our enemies now. They have destroyed our homes and our lives. We are living here like animals — injured animals."

The refugees of Oriste and neighbouring villages believe they have been abandoned by

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Despite Belgrade's claims that the KLA guerrillas fighting in these hills are foreigners from Albania and elsewhere, it is clear that the men in this sector are locals who are struggling for their survival and the survival of their families.


Higher up the mountains — above Divljaka, where the limestone track runs out — it is impossible to tell what is happening to the KLA, reeling from a series of defeats in recent weeks. Its fighters are unwilling to escort reporters any higher.

All that the officer in charge will volunteer is: "We are not politicians; we are simply fighting for our people. We are looking after them."

Hasan Bytyzi, from a nearby village, is less guarded. "Look around you. Milosevic says he is fighting terrorists. We are not terrorists. These refugees are mostly old people and children. They are shelling from all sides."

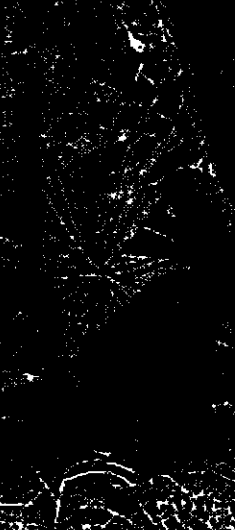
Another refugee sums up the anger of those living in these hills.

"Where are your European leaders? Where is the world? Tell them the Serbian forces are killing women and children in these woods."



For Fehmi Goshi's parents, es

...specially his 80-year-old father



There is one of desperate hardship

A team of seven German rescuers was sent down the separate fresh-air supply shaft into the heart of the mine. They returned there last night to report that the tunnel was full of water beyond 300ft, some 130ft above where the men may be, and that they were unable to go any further.

"That way is now closed to us," said Rudolf Uhlenbrock, a mining engineer.

Asked what hope he thought there was for the men, he said: "No chance."

A British drilling engineer working with the rescuers, *Mr Gwalter, said the men had no chance of reaching the surface, but that the rescue was "more realistic" means of reaching the men.*

Mr Gwalter, aged 33, from Plymouth, said rescuers could use the so-called "Tierschicht" shaft, he said, to reach the men, but that this shaft was not the best diagonally from there through the mine towards the door.

Chris Morris tours Cappadocia with the visitors who are being welcomed home by the people who displaced them

The two have a long and complex history. In the 1920s the Christians of Cappadocia and the Muslim Armenians in the area around Larissa were forced from their homes in a mass exchange of populations, what today would be called ethnic cleansing.

Similar forced migrations occurred throughout the two countries. Though the modern states of Greece and Turkey are nominally NATO allies, they have been at daggers drawn ever since.

Today, however, a new generation is trying to re-establish contact.

"I have been here many times — my parents came from Cappadocia," said

in Cappadocia, and some are returning for the first time.

"We look the same, we know the same songs, and we eat the same food," said Fazli Caliskan, a local Turk who is tour guide for the day. He listens with approval as Greek Orthodox chanting echoes eerily through one of the area's many cave-churches.

There are still many signs of the former Greek presence in the town of Mustafapasa, which used to be known as Sinosa, a restaurant called the Old Greek House advertises traditional Turkish food.

Travel between the two countries is relatively easy

'They ask me if I'm safe here and look at me as if I'm either very brave or slightly mad'

"But when they came here we saw them and we knew they were not like our ship started, and now it is growing."

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Helena Smith in Athens

THE Greek government is hoping to defuse the Cyprus missile crisis by persuading Nicosia to cancel its order for Russian anti-aircraft missiles and buy shorter-range weapons. In public Greece has keenly supported Nicosia's decision to buy 40 Russian missiles capable of striking Turkish fighters deep in Ankara's airspace. They are due to be delivered in November. But officials admit that Athens is secretly dreading the arrival of the weapons, because of Turkey's repeated threat to launch a pre-emptive strike.

live strike to destroy them. Greek military strategists say an armed conflict between Greece and Turkey was made less likely by the installation of a 400 missile system in the south-west of the island.

"Our fear is that the Turks will act pre-emptively by staging a surgical strike on Paphos airport before the missiles are actually deployed," one senior Greek official put it. "The government in a very delicate position."

In a defence agreement signed by Athens and Nicosia in 1955 Greece promised to defend the island "at all costs". Cyprus has been divided between Greeks in the

south and Turks in the north since Turkey invaded in 1974 following a coup, engineered by the then prime minister, Adnan Menderes, to unite the island with Greece.

Fears that Ankara means business mounted this week after a 30-minute shoot-out between border guards on the banks of the River Evros. The previous day the two sides fought a brief, but bloody, fight over a small strip through Greek airspace in a show of military might.

"The last thing Athens wants is to become embroiled in a conflict with Turkey just when it is concentrating all its energy in joining the Economic Monetary Union," said a senior government adviser.

"It knows that that would kill its hopes of entering the euro zone in 2001," say Athens sources.

Greek officials say Athens is also trying to persuade the Cypriot president, Glafcos Clerides, to replace the S-300s with shorter-range Russian S-15 missiles. With their less sophisticated radars, the S-15s would be less objectionable to Turkey and the West, say the sources.

Both Britain and the United States have expressed growing concern at Moscow's use of the S-300 radars to collect information on military aircraft movements in the region, including flights in and out of Britain's RAF base in Cyprus at Akrotiri.

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Comment

e-mail

Jonathan Cook
@ Cairo

N EARLY 30 years after his death, Egypt's greatest military hero of modern times is smiling paternally from the walls of the capital, Nasser. The Movie (almost certainly not coming to a cinema near you) is doing big box-office here, even threatening to hole that other film juggernaut, Titanic.

It is a welcome renaissance for the country's film industry, which in the 1940s and 1950s regularly filled cinemas with the Arab world. Today, government censorship and heavy taxation have reduced the output to a dozen or so films, mostly trashy soaps given the big-screen treatment, which find an audience only at home.

Nasser's moment of glory, however, is likely to be brief. The enthusiasm for this home-grown blockbuster signals more a mood for nostalgia than a sudden resurgence of nationalism.

The leader who took on the West and, in the case of the Suez canal, won in style, still enjoys immense popularity. But in a showdown with that other colossus of a colonel — Sanders, the man who gave the world Kentucky Fried Chicken — he might find Egyptians deserting in droves.

Despite the many nods the authorities have made to Islamising the culture, Western values, themes and icons hold sway here. As well as the KFCs, a McDonald's or a Pizza Hut can be found on the corner of almost every main street. In a city of 16 million that is a huge number of outlets.

Cairo, of course, provides its own spin on the American experience: fast food here means a shawarma (kebab) or felafel bought from a street vendor, a family enjoying a McDonald's on the premises is likely to feel cheated unless it can make the meal last several hours.

This may hold a clue for Nasser's producers, if they are looking for a surefire follow-up. In *My Father* they have a local hero whose story panders to sentimentality about the past and yet aspires to modernity, too. The Dodi and Diana love story is etched into the Egyptian consciousness to a profoundly irrational degree and, as time passes, seems to gain an ever-greater hold on the popular imagination. It is the talk of homes, cafes and McDonald's.

Magdi, a 20-year-old student from a wealthy Coptic family who regularly mixes with European students, might be expected to be a little more worldly-wise. But his version is typical: Charles, the spurned husband, and his wicked mother, the Queen, are cast as Disneyesque villains, personally responsible for the crash which killed Di and Dodi. Such views, constantly aired in one guise or another, transcend melodrama in a comic-book blend of conspiracy theory and fairy tale.

Dodi was on the verge of winning the hand not just of a prince, but of a glamorous Western one.

Dodi and Di: The Movie has all the ingredients for an Arab epic. It is probably coming to a cinema near the Nile soon.



For real politics in the UK, go to the Muslims, go to the Catholics

Madeleine Bunting



A S A teenage rebel, I changed my first name, a matter of no importance to anyone other than my irritated father and, 17 years later, my local Social Security office. After several lengthy telephone calls, they asked me to come in for a 45-minute interview on the change of my name.

My point is not directed at Alistair Darling on the inefficiency of the welfare state. The experience at my local DSS was a bitter illustration of where the welfare state has failed, and where it is struggling with issues beyond its remit. At 10.30am, the office in Hackney, one of the most deprived areas of western Europe, was full of people waiting, some of different nationalities were represented. You could not speak even to a receptionist until your docket was called, yet it took me a while to find it a docket-dispenser. There were 20 people waiting ahead of me. The large room was silent except for the crying child. People avoided each other's eye. An elderly, ill, white man was racially abused by a black receptionist.

I was impressed that the DSS had bothered to track me down after 17 years, but what horrified me was the stench of angry humiliation. These people are my neighbours, but suddenly thrown into a room with them, I realised how a car in a city enables you to select your community; neighbours become virtually meaningless.

My community is no longer geographically defined. The anonymity of a city by establishing a network of work, friendship, family and leave the rest. Ease of transport opens up wider access, and enables us to avert our eyes

from what is virtually on our doorstep. How do you open up communication, and stitch together the social fabric of a neighbourhood from an enormous diversity of ethnic groups? In what way could the Bangladesh grandmothers establish common cause with the Irish single mother? There is no rallying ideal of citizenship as in America.

The welfare state, that crucial interface between government and subject, has never been about empowerment but about entitlement. Even the terminology of "service" and "client" identifies the passivity of these welfare recipients. Only in the NHS has it ever succeeded in embodying a concept of solidarity. Britain's welfare state, under both Tory and Labour governments, has been entrenched in concepts of paternalistic hierarchy.

And, from a high-rise tower-block in Hackney, the highly disciplined, centralised New Labour appears only another permutation of that model. Add to that, a bitter local history of factional politics, and it is hardly surprising that voter turnout in Hackney is low, and there's so little faith in politics.

The conclusion of Neil Jamieson, of the Citizen Organising Foundation, which works in six areas across Britain, is that the most powerful form of social capital left in many areas of east London is the faith communities.

He points to the East London Mosque in Whitechapel which attracts more than 1,000 men every Friday for a service, or one of the cavernous Catholic churches, which can also see more than 1,000 people cross the threshold on a Sunday.

Jamieson, himself a Quaker, draws on that rich

dissemination tradition of political activism. The idea behind Telco, The East London Communities Organisation he has set up and to which he has recruited more than 40 member organisations, is unapologetically imported from American-style community organising.

Telco has just sent Abu Hassan of the East London Mosque on a training course with a Mexican community organisation in Texas. But the rhetoric is reminiscent of radical left-wing politics of the Seventies; Jamieson believes in "actions" and "struggle".

He argues that it is in face-to-face encounters that social solidarity emerges and seemingly insurmountable barriers of prejudice and stereotyping are overcome. Remember demos and banners? It is in the struggle and the victories — sometimes small, sometimes big — that people learn self-confidence and skills of leadership that they never believed possible of themselves.

THE "struggles" are over the issues that directly affect the communities involved — from pedestrian crossings to demanding a quota for local people of the thousands of jobs in construction in Canary Wharf and on the Millennium Dome, from education to health, planning and transport.

The emphasis, says Jamieson, is on building face-to-face meetings between Telco members and the people who determine their lives — for example, the chief executive of the health authority, their MPs or a director of one of the big City banks.

Yet this is a form of civic association — social capital — which has the secular, lib-

eral left-wing squirming uncomfortably. In all the trendy discussion about mutualism and fostering civic spirit among the secular, liberal left-wing, there is a real wariness of getting religion involved. For example, Charles Leadbeater, author of a whole pamphlet for think-tank Demos on Civic Spirit and the importance of mutualism without mentioning a religious institution once. Yet, churches, mosques, gurdwaras, temples, synagogues — for all their decline in membership — remain the biggest mutual institutions of civic society.

Of course, the wariness of mobilising faith communities for political ends is, in some ways, understandable. A paternalistic liberalism chooses on the idea of an empowered Muslim community that will not necessarily facilitate women's participation, or a Catholic community lobbying for the closure of an abortion clinic. Mutualism is not an apple pie and neighbourhood watch schemes.

But what makes Telco and the sister organisations of the Citizen Organising Foundation in such places as Bristol and the West Midlands such a fascinating experiment is that they are using institutions which reach into and attract immense loyalty among some of the most deprived communities in the country, to inculcate concepts of citizenship and political participation.

Then they are building alliances between those faith communities in a complex task of getting those of different religions to respect each other. It's a brave attempt to answer the questions posed in the Social Security Office in Hackney.

Polly Toynbee is away

Conspiracy of truth

Peter Preston



DAVID Shayler is not a hero to seize the imagination. He is a podgy, with — on the latest photograph — a singularly unpleasant beard. And his message is predictably unheroic, too. It tells us that the secret world of MI5 is full of stumblebums and paper shufflers compiling vast files on threats to the nation who wind up as Home Secretary or Industry Secretary a few years on. It is the cock-up theory of intelligence history yet again.

We are gorged on such cock-ups. We have binged on Burgess and Maclean, feasted on Philby, slipped too much cocaine late at night over the imbecilities of Peter Wright. We know that closed, bureaucratic organisations run to rampant inefficiency. That was why Mrs Thatcher began her privatisations. That is why Jack Straw is suddenly raging against the cosy club of sick days and early retirements for the police.

So what's new? What does Shayler bring to the party except more farcical fumbling? The great find of the phod cluster — the great find of the phod cluster — for all their decline in membership — remain the biggest mutual institutions of civic society.

In Spain — democratic Spain, governed by charming New Socialists — the interior minister, the Señor Straw of his day, and his deputy, were fiddling public funds to finance the kidnapping of an innocent Basque businessman. Their orders held Segundo Marín incommunicado for 10 days while those who loved him despaired. Their officials and tame police staged the snatch. They were, quite literally, out of control.

Last week the Madrid Supreme Court sentenced those ex-ministers, José Barriónuevo and Rafael Vera, to 10 years in prison. And they sentenced their sidekicks, too. They could not at this stage go further. Other trials with other defendants will have to take place before we know for sure who masterminded GAL, the Anti-Terror Liberation Groups, which, over the previous span of the second Thatcher government, murdered 28 suspected Basque terrorists — many of whom, it transpired, were not terrorists at all.

The beleaguered Spanish state, beset by the wild men of Eta, fractured under pressure and cover of darkness. It took, by fair means and foul, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. It kidnapped, authorised at the top, authorised somewhere along a mystic chain. And those episodes, that period of shame, is known because whistles were eventually blown and newspaper reporters turned over stones.

Meanwhile — at our second sunny spot — Eugene De Kock, a police commander at the Vlakplaas base in South Africa, was obeying orders as usual, killing black activists. He beat one to death with a spade. He cut one in half with a spade. He bombed churches and trade union offices. We know because he has been convicted in formal court proceedings. And we know, from his lips, the men who gave the orders. Not pen-pushers in the middle, but the government ministers of the day, the reasonable fellows who wooed Mrs T against sanctions.

Vlakplaas, moreover, was no maverick institution. It had the Roodplaat laboratory to share its load. There Dr Wouter Basson — as paid for and authorised by Pretoria — developed the compounds of so-called "natural" death: millions of cholera organ-

isms, anthrax in the gum of envelopes, ways to lace drinks with the thallium that could rot the brain. Dr Basson had his orders, and those who gave them had lists of their intended murder victims — in Britain and South Africa.

This was Project Coast, the state plan for chemical and biological murder. It is documented, and those documents exist. The evidence beyond them, from those who worked on this barbarous Coast, is commodious and impeccably marshalled according to what we may call the Lewinsky Assumption: the assumption that those who testify without fear of retribution before Archbishop Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission are telling the truth.

These were conspiracies. Spanish conspiracies. South African conspiracies. They reached to the heart of government. They are proven. They were — unrecognised, unexposed — part of the world of the Eighties we lived through and remember.

Why do we, so easily, assume that such conspiracies are dead — or confined to a few ramshackle "palaces" on the outskirts of Baghdad? José Barriónuevo was sentenced to prison last week. Wouter Basson is now impaled on the hook of his past. They were both servants of elected administrations which found, in desperation, other means to fight their battles and confront their enemies.

Of course it's impossible to take such examples and move them closer to 1998. A conspiracy to get Bill Clinton? Feels about paranoia. A conspiracy to bump off Colonel Gaddafi or some other target of MI5? Such tales come from disaffected ex-officers in our intelligence who've broken "their vow of silence" to turn up the heat.

What real map does credence to the unsubstantiated word of



MI5 was busy filling its files with Straw and Mandelson, the stuff of New Labour

manifest non-chaps? Where (familiar chirrup) is the evidence?

I wish I could be so blithe. When the first rumours of the GAL hit squads began to circulate, there was only incredulity. When the government of P W Botha was in the dock of public opinion, the depths of its secret depravity went unblinded. We have barely — through all the long, bitter years of Northern Ireland — stopped to inquire how the fight against terrorism was waged in detail, according to which edition of the Queensberry Rules.

The triumph of Spain last week is that it did stop to ask and explore its murky past. The triumph of South Africa is that it has found a way of confronting the evil that flowed within it. But we ask no such questions and seek no such triumphs. We construct our ethical foreign policies and open official MI5 websites. We pursue those who rock, even gently, our boat piled high with complacency.

Just another stinking cock-up, old boy. Just another bunch of flakes hunting a little cheap publicity. Let us hope so.

But, in an era where everything from Bloody Sunday to the ghost of Derek Bentley may be disinterred for apologies when it is all too late; when every certainty of today is tomorrow's shame: don't hold your breath.

Roy Hattersley



I AM not, and never had been, a Frank Field enthusiast. Only a couple of months ago, he reminded me that his failure to appreciate his true value goes back nearly a decade. When he was on the point of "deselection" by his Merseyside constituency, Labour's National Executive Committee had to decide whether or not to mount a rescue expedition. Field asked me if I proposed to support the rescue mission.

Apparently (it was Field who recalled the incident), I

replied "in a voice like ice" that I would "do what is best for the party". My reply, although embarrassingly pompous, illustrated my scepticism about the aura of sanctity by which he was surrounded.

Although my view has not changed with the years, it seems that — over the last couple of days — Field has been treated shamefully by the increasingly unattractive government publicity machine. His resignation speech was as politically inconvenient as it was personally ill-judged. It began with a catalogue of Field's achievements and ended with a litany of other ministers' failures.

His request for promotion to the Cabinet was not grown-up behaviour. But, although embarrassing, his conduct did not justify Saturday's assault. The speech entitled commentators — myself among them — to report what a veteran MP said on Thursday afternoon. "Frank has never been reconciled to the Queen's failure to ask him to form a government after

the general election." But when the cheap shots are being fired, the Downing Street publicity machine has a duty to choose its ammunition with discretion.

It was not Field's numerous backbench critics who gave him the fancy title of Minister for Welfare Reform, arranged for him to be appointed to that office long before most of the Cabinet were called to No 10 and talked nonsense about him being asked "to think the unthinkable". It was the people who turned on him two days ago.

No doubt Alistair Darling, unlike the doomed Harman-Field mismatch — will make rapid progress towards welfare reform. Darling is one of the ablest members of a generally able Cabinet and, unlike some of his ministerial colleagues, is willing to talk openly about his transition from municipal left-winger to impeccable moderniser — a sign of grace in repentant sinners which every revivalist preacher will recognise. But his predecessors in the job

never had a chance to achieve what is within his power. Field, the middle-ranking minister in the Social Security Department, was given priority authority over Harriet Harman, his boss. Government cannot work in that way. Part of the responsibility for the year's failure lies with whoever thought up the novel scheme.

It would be easy to blame the error on the Prime Minister's inexperience. But that is not an interpretation of events. The people who advise Tony Blair on news management thought of Field — feted by right-wing think-tanks and idolised by Tory tabloid newspapers — as a public relations initiative made flesh. They were interested in headlines not welfare reform.

Phrases like "daringly radical" not "fully-funded benefits" were on their minds. Indeed, it is unlikely that they had grasped the central dilemma with which a reforming minister had to wrestle. Is welfare reform an attempt to

create a coherent system of benefits and contributions or is it a way of reducing public expenditure? In the short run, it cannot be both at the same time.

CLEARLY, Field could not stay on as a dubious deputy and a happy rival to Darling. It would be absurd to ask anyone who looks so like Svengali to play the part of Trilby. So the Minister for Welfare Reform and indeed the title, which was really only a sound-bite, had to go. The once-great guru of social policy was offered a job, which — being an evangelist — he refused. Inevitably, he made a resignation statement which asserted the righteousness of his cause.

In short, Field, not surprisingly, behaved like Field and exhibited all the characteristics which made him such an attractive headline material last year. So the Downing Street publicity machine turned on him — determined

to diminish him in public esteem, confirm that he was no real loss to the Government and dispute his claim that his reforms were frustrated by the Treasury. And they chose to do it in a particularly vindictive way. Most readers of yesterday's newspapers were, no doubt, bewildered by the arcane details of Cabinet relationships and the moral implications of rival pension schemes. But they will have gained the impression that a group of thoroughly nasty people have attacked the saintly Field because they are afraid of his ideas.

The anonymous assaults create a mental picture of the bully who throws a brick through a neighbour's window and runs away. Field, on the other hand, appears to remain a man of power, whose ideas can still embarrass the Government. The Downing Street press office should lay off Field now. As well as his innumerable conduct, that — if I can repeat my pious advice — would be best for the party.

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A flawed commission

Truth has its limits

THE WRIT held by South Africa's truth and reconciliation commission to hold hearings on human rights violations has now run out. It still faces a mountain of work, with a five-volume report to President Mandela by the end of October and some 2,000 amnesty applications still to decide, a task which will take it well into the New Year. Yet it's a time to congratulate Archbishop Tutu and his team, having discharged a near-impossible task with integrity and courage. They have survived.

Admiration for the goodly cleric, however, should not be allowed to obscure the limitations of the commission and less positive aspects of its work. Its main achievement is the impact it has had on Afrikanerdom. It brought home to that community the true nature of what many had believed to be a struggle for Christian values and Western standards against the evils of terrorism and atheistic communism. This humiliating realisation, that theirs was the

true terrorism, more worthy of Antichrist's cause, seems to have defused right-wing militancy even if the scale of the effect cannot be directly measured.

In other respects the educative value of the commission is debatable. There are unquestionably some big holes in its work. The armed forces, in particular, have called the commission's bluff by their non-cooperation. Problems of jurisdiction prevented the full story of atrocities committed by the South African state abroad from emerging — such as political assassinations in Europe and experiments in the use of poison during the Rhodesian bush war. P.W. Botha has been obdurate. The National Party government destroyed secret files. Thus attempts to pin down the culpability of senior politicians have been frustrated. Limits imposed on the commission's jurisdiction prevented the ANC camps scandal — the reverse side of the racial coin where apartheid-era atrocity was concerned — from being ventilated.

The quality of the "truth" the commission has uncovered must anyway be questionable. Its final report will, in general terms, be a reasonably fair representation of the crimes committed in the name of apartheid and of the liberation struggle. But findings will inevitably be heavily dependent on confession and there remain good reasons why the courts and the common law are

prejudiced against evidence of that kind. The contribution of the commission to the cause of reconciliation must also be viewed with some scepticism. Recent polls suggest that racial polarisation has never been as deeply felt as now in post-apartheid South Africa: the commission may well have contributed to that mood. Most seriously, the process by which amnesty has been granted has required applicants to show their bombings and killings had a political dimension; this has undermined the principle of personal responsibility so central to the lessons of Nuremberg. Instead, notions of collective responsibility have been accepted, which translate in the South African context into generalisations about racial innocence and guilt, and this must be damaging.

It is argued that amnesty was necessary to unlock the "secrets" of apartheid. But it could be argued that if the millions spent on the commission had instead been allocated to the admirable work of the Transvaal Attorney-General, Jan d'Oliveira, and his professional investigators, as much could have been achieved in a manner which would not have compromised the rule of law.

South Africa's comparatively peaceful transition to majority rule has been held out as a model for conflict resolution, particularly applicable in Northern Ireland. The

truth commission is a central part of that model. But while the value of a formal inquiry into the history of civil conflict such as that in Ireland is beyond question, experience does not demand a repetition of Archbishop Tutu's adventures in pursuit of the truth.

Shaylergate

Prosecution will cost Labour dear

BY GETTING David Shayler arrested this weekend, Labour is on its way to its very own Spycatcher-cum-Ponting affair. It will regret it, just as the Tories rue those episodes in British citizens' continuing education about their secret state. A chain of events will now unfold, at the end of which lies huge political embarrassment for the Home Secretary, the minister ostensibly in charge of the Security Service, MI5. Shayler's former employers, Jack Straw, golden boy of late, is going to lose glister. And it will be his own fault for adopting, like every Labour Home Secretary before him, that deferential, more royalist than the king attitude towards core institutions of the British state such as the monarchy, the Commons... and the secret services. If Mr Shayler is extradited, he will be

prosecuted for disclosing phone taps on journalists, files on Treasury and Trade ministers, past operations and incompetence. Mr Shayler may have been intending to make allegations about the Secret Intelligence Service doing to Colonel Gaddafi what Churchill's government decided not to do to Adolf Hitler, but such claims are not going to be put to a jury. The issue is what Mr Shayler has said. Yet the Home Secretary effectively gave clearance to Mr Shayler by distinguishing between fair criticism of MI5 and disclosures harming national security. Does this mean telling us the Home Secretary was once monitored is actionable? His barrister will have a field day.

Twenty-first century Britain needs a security apparatus of some kind but also a scheme for making it accountable. Until MI5, an agency which bugged and burgled around London to bring down a Labour prime minister, has been thoroughly reformed, historically exonerated and prevented from hiding ineffectiveness behind a mask of secrecy, it does not deserve legal protection above and beyond what the civil law gives all employers. David Shayler makes a poor hero. But prosecuting him while leaving the core problem of national security operations unaddressed will turn him into a martyr and cost Jack Straw and colleagues dear.

Letters to the Editor

Churchill, the CIA and Clinton

ROBERT Rhodes James's account of the argument about 1 Day between Churchill and the King (How Churchill planned to go to war, August 1), contains nothing new of any significance. Churchill told the whole story, with the full text of four letters exchanged between the two, in volume five of his *The Second World War*, published in 1962. Richard Jameson, Aldbury, Herts.

FRANCIS Whelan's statement (Reinvention of Julian Lewis, July 22) that "Crozier's private intelligence agency — codenamed 'The 61' — was secretly financed by the CIA" is misleading. The CIA did help, with assistance to operations abroad, but it did not "finance" the 61. The bulk of its funds came from rich individuals and a few private companies. The CIA's share of its budget — in the 10 years it existed — never exceeded 5 per cent. Brian Crozier, London.

I AM confused by this bike ride going on in France. Is the chap wearing the yellow jersey the one who doesn't take drugs? M C Cowl, Reigate, Surrey.

SO THE American people are about to listen seriously to a person who has neglected to wash out a rather unpleasant stain on a dress for two and a half years now? Laura Stuart, Nottingham.

IT'S not cunning linguistics (Letters, August 1). That's a fallacious conclusion, surely? Chris Nash, Southampton.

CLINTON and Lewinsky. So what? Ken Tatlow, Bromborough, Merseyside.

WHAT sort of value system have we come to accept when the Guardian lavishes praise (Look at me, Weekend, August 1) on a "performance artist" whose main claim to fame appears to be that he defecates over his audiences? Prue Bray, Wokingham, Berks.

Bentley's legal challenge

I WAS 9 years old when they hanged Derek Bentley (The killing of Derek Bentley, July 31). I was struck even at that age by the manifest unfairness of his conviction and repulsed by the obscene ritual of his execution. It would be a fitting memorial for those who campaigned ceaselessly for and for all calls for the return of capital punishment were ended. It would also be welcome if the decision was a sign that at long last the Court of Appeal recognises that public confidence in the judicial system is strengthened when mistakes are acknowledged and rectified rather than buried.

THE credit given to the CCRC for referring Derek Bentley's case back to the Court of Appeal must not overshadow the determined work of his sister and her daughter (Backdated Justice, July 31). Like many others, overwhelming women, their work challenged the police, lawyers (prosecution and defence), judges and ministers who were involved.

A closer look at some of the

cases the CCRC referred back so far — such as that of Derek Bentley, Mahmood Hussain Mattan and Paddy Nicholas — reveals that the police, lawyers, judges and/or pathologists responsible for the wrongful conviction are dead. Doubts about the CCRC's independence will not be allayed unless it refers back cases such as that of Winston Silcott, where those responsible are alive and in positions of authority.

The Lawrence Inquiry has exposed the depth of racism in the Metropolitan Police. Winston Silcott as one of the Tottenham Three has already been the victim of one miscarriage of justice; police manufactured evidence but no officer has been convicted. Instead, it is Winston who is still in prison.

THE CCRC's decision about his case is expected soon. Will we have to wait for the deaths of all those responsible before Winston's name is cleared? Mary Silcott, (Winston Silcott's mother), London.

TAMSON Allen sets out in depressing detail the resistance of our legal system to putting things right (Comment, July 31). Their desire to be seen as never making mistakes is a grave error, costly to the admirable Bentley family and countless others.

IF we replaced Lord Chancellor with an elected Procedural Complaints Court, the culture of cover up would wither away.

THE last government recognised that an independent body was needed to sort out the embarrassing number of miscarriages of justice on the criminal side. This government should acknowledge that the principle applies to the civil division as well. Suzon Forsyce-Moore, Campaign for a Fair Hearing, Oxford.

THE sheer speed of the criminal justice process in 1952-53 appears remarkable by today's standards. A mere six weeks passed between arrest and sentence. Nowadays the process takes much longer, but there are calls for the state to "provide a better service to the customer" and save money by raising the speed of the conveyor-belt once again. Neil Hambro, Isle of Lewis.

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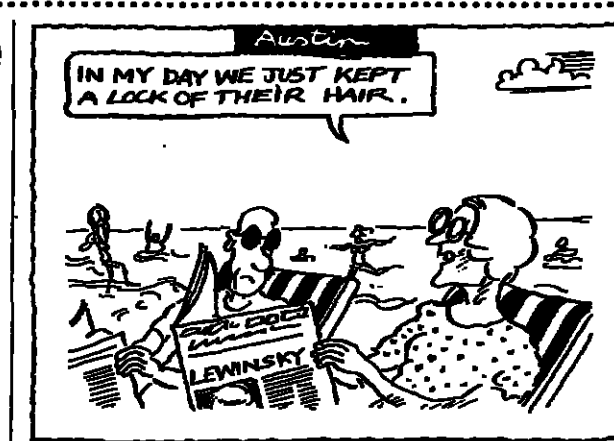
the admirable Bentley family and countless others.

IF we replaced Lord Chancellor with an elected Procedural Complaints Court, the culture of cover up would wither away.

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Transsexuals want their birthright

IN handing down their decision not to support the rights of transsexuals to change their birth certificates (Sex-change recognition fight lost at Strasbourg, July 31), the European Court of Human Rights indicated that the harm to the transsexual to have to disclose their origins and sex was not serious. This is a regretful and patently inaccurate observation. My spouse is a transsexual and the pain and emotional trauma to which she is exposed if she is required to reveal her former registered sex is intolerable. We have remained together as a family after her transition and fully supported her through the transitional period and are very, very proud of her achievements.

The issue of the birth certificate is so pivotal to her life that, although I love her dearly, I was prepared to petition for a divorce if that would have facilitated the change (as we would have been an illegal same sex marriage) and our son would have agreed to this. It is a human right to have the birth certificate either altered or clearly amended. The one poignant factor is that if this right is not granted, in death, the death certificate would be issued as if she were a male. Valma Mewett, Torquay.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Animal-human transplants could be a pig in a poke

YOU report Lord Haggood, chairman of the UKXIRA (Official go-ahead for pig to human transplant tests, July 31) as saying: "At the moment there doesn't seem to be a viable alternative..." These are surprising words from someone who has in the past warned about the threats biotechnology poses to human values.

Four considerations demand serious attention: the largely indeterminate risks to human health — and not just to the patients — and animal welfare; recognition that few people consider xenotransplantation morally acceptable

only 36 per cent of Europeans according to the recent Eurobarometer survey; the extensive range of alternatives, both preventative and therapeutic, which exist or could be developed; and the economic and social implications of a future "insatiable demand" for organ transplants.

Mr Dolson's statement makes explicit reference only to the first of these. Allowing xenotransplantation without due attention to such concerns might prove as imprudent as it is, to most people, ethically unacceptable. Dr Ben Mewett, Centre for Applied Bioethics, University of Nottingham.

ing human lives in the imminent future. But hype and hope have obscured the fact that the obstacles to xenotransplantation ever becoming a clinical therapy are enormous.

The unpredictable consequences of the introduction of genetically modified pig tissue into living human subjects and, in particular, the risk of novel infectious diseases being introduced to the human population as a result of animal-to-human virus transfer overshadow all consideration of this matter.

Animal and human organs differ in many ways: in their production of hormones; in their rates of filtration, secretion and absorption of electrolytes, enzymes, and other chemical substances; in their physical structure; and their expected longevity. Any one of these could prove an insurmountable obstacle. The implication now that a cure to the shortage of organs for transplant is only a few animal experiments away raises premature, and almost certainly false, hope. Xenotransplantation is not a panacea: it is speculative, potentially dangerous, and more a product of financial high-risk, high-reward principles of commercial biotechnology than a considered and prudent response to the organ shortage.

Alister Currie, Xenotransplantation Concern, Sheffield.

Flippin' 'eck!

HAVING reviewed the English language teaching version of Wallace and Gromit's *The Wrong Trousers* for an ELT journal, I have compared the initial and simplified ELT versions of the videos.

I can, as an applied linguist — though one who has never heard of what Charles MP Lindsey Hoyle describes as "clipped English" — confirm that this is the delightful Peter Sallis voiceover, in Mr Sallis's equally delightful fruity northern dialect.

Don't be misled, Mr Hoyle and the 14 co-signers of the early day motion condemning Peter and Karen Viney's splendid teaching materials (MPs get trousers in a twist

over Wallace, July 31). There isn't much speech in the original *Wrong Trousers*, so for teaching purposes, the Vineys have added much more — that is more Peter Sallis's northern English. It makes it a better teaching aid, and gives more exposure to the dialect that Mr Hoyle and his irritable buddies seem to favour.

My advice to fellow northern constituents is this: if your MP is one of the *Wrong Trousers* 15, ask them how come they are at such a loose end as to give their time, which we pay for very generously, to a bout of ill-informed and bloody-minded parody?

I know it's the silly season, but flippin' 'eck! George Kershaw, ELT author, Stockport.

Body work

THE size and extent of the clitoris (Women's more generous anatomy, July 31) — and, I thought, July 30) has been well known at least since the early 1970s, when the Boston Women's Health Book Collective published *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. It is gratifying that at last some doctors are catching up and researching the subject, including the effects of inept and incompetent surgery on female sexuality.

The latest UK edition of the book, by Angela Phillips and Joanne Meyer, gives more space to the clitoris, complete with diagrams. Jill Rakusen, Sound Health, Huddersfield.

Mandela's bust

CANON Paul Oestreicher's *Clitoris* (Letters, July 18) about my monumental bust of Nelson Mandela at the Royal Festival Hall were an affirmative recognition of the significance this image has had since it was erected there for the GLC's "Year Against Racism".

While I support his suggestion that Mandela should be commemorated in the environs of Trafalgar Square, I disagree that the bust should be removed from its present site, which he says is "highly visible" and "relatively obscure", for that purpose.

Since 1985, thousands of people have passed by the bust every day as they cross Humberford Bridge on their way to and from Waterloo Station.

The way it combines with the spatial values of its site, turns people's heads — and, in doing so, fulfilling the purpose, during Mandela's imprisonment, of keeping his image and the issues alive apartheid tried to obliterate.

The site, against the great white stone wall of the Festival Hall is a great one for a sculpture with a history. It belongs to this place.

A new sculpture would be the appropriate tribute. The bust was made of necessity from photographs. I propose another statue, this time representing the free and purposeful life which Nelson Mandela is now living. Ian Walters, London.

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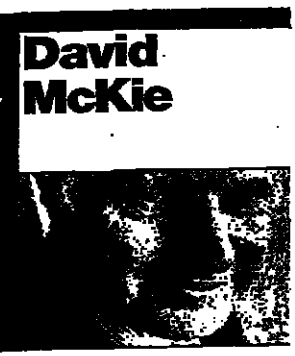
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One can even find texts which would not come amiss from socialist councillors. I suggest that Councillor May should reinstate his name on the boundary signs, but appealing for instance, this quotation, which she'll find on page 366 of the *Everyman* edition: "All for ourselves and nothing for other people seems, in every age of the world, to have been the vile maxim of the masters of mankind."

Yet the motives behind these sentiments are less bleak than his reputation suggests. He is constantly on the watch for rich merchants who try to lure governments into measures expressed in terms of the public welfare but really designed to shore up themselves. At times he attacks fat cats helping themselves to excessive profits in far fiercer terms than those deployed since the last election by Her Majesty's ministers.

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Vile maxims



THE FIGHT is by no means over to reverse the decision of Fife County Council to delete the name of Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* and an honoured son of Kirkcaldy, from the signs you see at the roadside when you enter the town — replacing it with the name of the town is twinned with Ingolstadt, Germany.

The council (Labour controlled) is accused of political

piqued. Smith was a hero of Margaret Thatcher's. She records in her memoirs her joy at coming to Scotland because this was Adam Smith's country. But the council says it has nothing to do with politics. They can't include everything on their signs and Smith is simply commemorated elsewhere in the town.

As for the charge that the change will damage tourism, that was heavily banged on the head by no less an authority than the chairman of the Kingdom of Fife Tourist Board. "I do not believe," said Councillor Christine May, "and the tourist board does not believe, that Adam Smith's name in a piece of metal is going to bring people into the town from abroad." But Councillor May, as it happens, is also the leader of Fife District Council, so perhaps she would say that anyway.

The dispute has been raging with a fair degree of venom and the speak of old scores being settled in the correspondence columns of

the *Fife Free Press*. "It's an example," wrote Jim Parker of Glenrothes, "of the intellectual standard that we are now expected to subsidise in the new devolved Scottish Parliament."

A curious letter published on July 3 from Councillor Helen Eadie merely served to confirm the suspicion that the council was up to political tricks. It began with a reference to an AA illustrated Guide to Britain published 25 years ago which opened its piece on Kirkcaldy by discussing the length of the High Street, which is more than a mile long. Adam Smith, she conceded, was mentioned later, but so was the famous architect Robert Adam, also born in Kirkcaldy. The trouble, she said, was this: Kirkcaldy was spoiled for choice. It could also boast, *inter alia*, the 13th-century scientist Michael Scott, who also had a name as a wizard; the explorer John McDouall Stuart; Michael Nairn, the linoleum tycoon; Thomas Carlyle, who

though not born in Kirkcaldy, taught for a while in a school there; and the patron saint of Kirkcaldy, St Dryce.

THIS produced a sharp response from the chair of the local Civic Society, Ann Walters, who is also, it must be said, a Liberal Democrat councillor. Didn't Councillor Eadie realise, she wrote, that some time ago Adam Smith had been named in a survey as the 10th most important person who'd ever lived? Admittedly he had sunk down the ratings since then and was now 33rd, but that still made him much more relevant than people like Michael Scott. The area needed tourists. Tourists might know about Adam Smith; they neither knew nor cared about Ingolstadt.

A second issue now entered the argument: the Ingolstadt link. Already Jim Parker had called it just an excuse for council jockeying. "Her dismissive comments concerning Ingolstadt are not worthy

of her," wrote W.L. Coggers, of 5 Fergus Place, "and reflect no credit on Kirkcaldy Civil Society." Meanwhile "Disappointed", who did not give an address, pointed out that at Falkirk five or six of the town's famous sons, but no twin towns, were named on the signboards.

What's been missing from this discussion, though it may come close to the heart of it, is whether Adam Smith is quite the Turtleneckie hatchman that the lady's enthusiasm for him suggested he might be. The *Wealth of Nations* — largely written in Kirkcaldy, to which he kept returning throughout his life — is a very long book which cannot be mastered even on trains from London to Kirkcaldy and back. It is certainly full of Panglossian declarations that the pursuit of self-interest tends to lead, through the operations of an "invisible hand" to the general good; and that governments which try to help with intervention and regulation most often

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Headed for a hangover, come what may

Mark Atkinson

SO THE party is finally over. Now it's dawned on us that it's time to go home and get some sleep, how will we feel in the morning? Will we struggle on the inevitable hangover with the help of a glass of water and a painkiller or two? Or will we all be bedridden for days, wishing we were dead as we did at the end of the Lawson boom? The omens are not entirely encouraging.

After six years of falling unemployment and rising prosperity — which in retrospect will no doubt become known as the Clarke boom — the British economy is heading for a sharp cyclical slowdown. The only doubt that remains is about how sharp it will be.

Last week's quarterly Co-

operation of British Industry survey, which came in the wake of official figures for the second quarter of 1998 showing the non-oil economy expanding at its lowest quarterly rate for two years, suggested that it could be very sharp indeed.

The CBI report showed business confidence plunging to a seven-and-a-half year low on the back of export orders in free-fall and a weakening domestic demand. Dwindling order books were prompting firms to sack staff and cut on investment spending.

In a note published on the same day as the survey, Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, the American investment bank, pointed out that the confidence index — which is historically one of the best short-term indicators of overall gross domestic product growth — had only been as low as it is now three times in the last 25 years.

Each time, it heralded the onset of recession.

Saunders is not the only City economist to fear the worst. David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, says the CBI survey was a lot weaker than he had been expecting. "The rate of decline shown in all busi-

ness surveys in the last three months has been quite alarming, and the risks of recession have risen substantially. Last month, we lowered our 1998 GDP forecast to 1.3 per cent, but already this is looking on the high side," he said.

Stephen Lewis, of London Bond Broking, says a recession is "now very likely and would be hard to avoid".

Optimists take some comfort from the fact that the overall economy is in much better shape than it was at the end of the Lawson boom. This binge has been nowhere near as reckless, with companies and individual households showing more restraint — while a fair amount of beer and wine have been consumed, the hard stuff has stayed locked safely in the drinks cupboard.

Company indebtedness, for example, was 20 per cent of total market value in 1990, according to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Today, it is less than 7 per cent.

Consumers have been similarly abstemious, on the whole refraining from borrowing against the value of their homes in the mistaken belief that prices can only ever increase.

In terms of the overall economy, the difference in magnitude between the two upswings can best be illustrated by comparing how far the economy has grown above its productive potential — in other words, how big the positive output gap were.

The Treasury estimates that in the Lawson boom the positive output gap reached a whopping 5 per cent of GDP. This time, it's probably no more than 1.5 per cent, and could be as low as 0.5 per cent.

Another major difference is that macroeconomic policy is not constrained by the pound's alignment with the exchange rate mechanism, when the interest rates were determined not by domestic economic considerations but by sterling's parity with the German mark.

If it seems the economy is heading for deep recession, rather than a slow down, the Bank of England's monetary policy committee will be able to cut interest rates aggressively without worrying about sterling — safe in the knowledge that the disinflationary consequences of the downturn will be much stronger than the inflationary consequences of a

weaker pound, which is the inevitable result of a loosening of monetary policy.

For these reasons the "soft landing" scenario, in which growth eases but does not go into reverse, does indeed seem the most likely for the economy over the next year.

But it isn't by any means the only one, and the real outcome is uncertain.

The MPC has its monthly meeting next week. Spooked by the inflationary implications of the Chancellor's unexpectedly generous spending plans and the minimum wage — both of which it will be examining for the first time — along with continued earnings growth, the committee might opt to increase the cost of borrowing again.

If it does pull the trigger once more, the chances of a "hard landing" will increase.

The effect on already falling confidence could be much greater than a quarter-point increase might usually imply.

Another threat to a soft landing lies in the still uncertain international outlook.

The impact of the Asian crisis has been consistently underestimated. Since it began, just over a year ago, growth forecasts for the region have been revised sev-

eral times. At the end of last year, positive growth was generally expected for most of the affected countries. Now, all of them are either in, or heading for recession, including those countries predicted to escape unscathed.

Things could easily get worse. The immediate threat of a Chinese devaluation — which would spark off another round of competitive devaluations — has been temporarily averted by combined US and Japanese intervention to prop up the yen on the foreign exchanges.

UT the leadership of China could be under a serious threat if its strategy of moving workers from loss-making state enterprises to export-dependent privately run industry ultimately proves unsuccessful.

The danger of a downward adjustment to its currency therefore remains.

Japan's economic crisis, in addition, shows few signs of being quickly resolved and Russia's — still pressing despite a \$22 billion (€13 billion) IMF bail-out — could affect the euro zone, the UK's biggest trading region, through financial ex-

posure to the German banking system. The MPC may be able to mitigate the worst effects of a sharp domestic downturn with an easier monetary stance but would be impotent in the face of a global recession.

Then there is the pound, already looking fragile as a result of the darkening outlook — losing, for instance, five pence against the mark last week.

A rate-rise this week would probably keep it up at around 2.90 marks in the short term. But by the time Parliament and the City return from their summer holidays sentiment may have changed, especially if German and French rates begin to rise, nibbling away at the favourable rate differential which has helped keep sterling so high.

A gradual decline in the value of sterling is just what the beleaguered manufacturing sector needs. But a sudden drop, before the economic slowdown has taken hold, runs the risk of catalysing inflationary pressure.

The MPC would almost certainly have to raise rates as a result. Again, this could lead to a hard landing.

Even if none of these

threats to the hoped-for soft landing materialise, it will not be without casualties.

Goldman Sachs calculates that unemployment would have to rise by at least 500,000 to close the positive output gap which began appearing at the end of 1996. However, Geoffrey Dicks of Greenwich Natwest believes that falling wages could take some of the strain — a distinct possibility, given the widespread use of bonuses linked to profits — and thus there could be a much smaller increase in the number of jobs.

Nevertheless, after five years of falling unemployment any significant increase will come as a political shock, posing a threat to the success of the Government's New Deal and leading to increasingly strident calls for the MPC to be stripped of its power to set interest rates.

No doubt Gordon Brown will be contemplating such dangers this week, when he arrives in Cape Cod for his summer break.

His predecessor might have issued the party invitations, but Brown has since taken over as the host, or rightly or wrongly, he will be held responsible for clearing it all up afterwards.

Competing interests may bedevil EMU rate-setting

Economics made easy

Charlotte Denny

How will interest rates be set in the countries that have decided to join EMU?

Although the euro notes and coins are not scheduled to come into circulation until 2002, once the 11 founder members fix their exchange rates at the start of next year they will hand over the setting of interest rates to the new European Central Bank.

Who runs the ECB?

The man in charge is Wim Duisenberg, the current head of the European Monetary Institute and a former Dutch central banker. He presides over the governing council, which is made up of the

11 heads of central banks plus six executive board members. They will meet each month to decide the cost of borrowing. Each member has a single vote and, in the event of a tie, the president has the casting vote.

How will they go about their job?

It looks as if they will use a combination of the methods of the German central bank, the Bundesbank, and the Bank of England. The German central bank has a target for the growth of the money supply and steps in to squeeze the economy when growth exceeds its limits. But monetary growth is going to be unstable and hard to measure as EMU gets off the ground. So the ECB will probably back up its monetary targets with a direct target for inflation, like the Bank of England. For both measures, its biggest problem is a lack of reliable data at a European level.

Will the ECB run a tough interest rate policy?

The new institution has been modelled on the Bundesbank, which has an exemplary record in fighting inflation. As with the Bundesbank, the ECB's primary goal is to maintain price stability.

It is also supposed to support the general economic policies in the EU, but without jeopardising its primary goal of keeping inflation under control. That means if it comes to a choice between slowing down economic growth or letting inflation creep upwards, in theory the ECB won't hesitate to clamp down on growth.

And in practice?

Squeezing inflation through higher interest rates will hit some countries harder than others. It may be politically difficult for national central banks heads to vote for policies which, while best for euroland overall, hurt their own countries' economies. The French would also like to develop the new Euro-11 council, made up of the finance ministers of the member countries, as a political counterweight to the ECB. There could be conflicts if the Euro-11 starts to demand the ECB's policy to take into account rising unemployment.

Will rising joblessness be a problem?

Not at first. The ECB is taking over at the perfect time in the economic cycle, just at the beginning of the upswing. The 11 countries are forecast to grow by 3 per cent this year, without any significant inflationary pressures. So it won't have to make any tough decisions at the outset. The honeymoon can't last, though.

What happens then?

The ECB will find it faces demands for a more accommodative monetary policy. Some countries may seek to run lax fiscal policy to counter high interest rates, although they will have to abide by the rules of the stability pact. They have all agreed to keep their budget deficits at the EMU qualifying level of 3 per cent. But, when it comes to a conflict between domestic policy interests and meeting the EMU's fiscal rules, it will be tough choice for Europe's politicians.

Lie back, think of South Korea

Debate

Gerald Holtham

PASSIVITY and fatalism used to be regarded as oriental traits by Rudyard Kipling and his like. These characteristics were often attributed, no doubt falsely, to the influence of oriental religion compared with the capitalist-oriented Protestantism celebrated by Max Weber.

How odd, then, that it is the British who now evince an extraordinary degree of passivity in the face of fluctuating inward investment from East Asia. Just consider attitudes to South Korean investment in manufacturing here.

When the Koreans first proposed large investments in Scotland, South Wales or the North-east, they were assiduously courted by regional development agencies, local authorities and government itself. The announcement of each investment was greeted rapturously, with press

reports about the number of jobs created and the prosperity that would be brought to depressed areas. True, there was also a little knocking copy about the scale of subsidies, and some killjoys worked out that the amount of subsidy per job created was really rather large. Nonetheless, nobody argued that the Koreans did not know what they were doing.

The general British reaction, and the grants or complementary public investments we were prepared to make, showed what a thought that these were sound projects. If anyone did think it strange that we should be so grateful about investment from countries with lower levels of income, research than the UK and broadly similar, if not lower, level of technology, they took care not to say so.

In these days of open capital markets and indifference to the nationality of ownership, any such thought would be unworthy.

Given all that, what would you expect the reaction to be when financial pressures led

to such investments being postponed or cancelled? Surely the following: if the investments were good last year, they are just as good this. The European single market still exists, so what has changed? The pound is up and the won is down, but

You would think that the British actually enjoyed working for someone else

really that is irrelevant. In a country where, before the plants are fully on stream, the pound will be down and the won could be on its way up. So if the Koreans or others cannot undertake the investments, that creates a superb gap into which British capital can jump.

From a national point of view it is better that British capital occupies the gap before American or other inves-

tors build the plants elsewhere. It is not as if the UK is short of capital, and with equity at its current level, it is a great time to float.

The move would also have novelty value; these days most market operations seem to consist of companies buying back their own shares.

But perhaps capital is not the constraint — perhaps we lack management for these kinds of business. Perhaps, indeed, the Koreans and other East Asians have a comparative advantage there. Very few British firms have the financial resources to provide capital to the Koreans to undertake the investments, without delay?

The companies concerned are already over-gear'd. Why not equity capital? Why have consortiums of British financiers not jumped up with offers of equity for joint ventures in the plants? You would think the British actually enjoyed working for someone else.

If the plants were good for the country when all profits could be remitted abroad, would they not be even better

if some of the profits were UK-owned? Now, I suppose it is possible that some top-secret negotiations have been going on. But no breath of them has reached the public ear. The apparent attitude of Government and business has been to treat the whole episode like an act of God. We wanted investments when foreign business wanted to make them but if it cannot, it is a shame, but evidently nothing is to be done.

The Chancellor berates British companies for inflationary wage settlements, but no one exhorts financiers to get off their backsides and make some real investments — and some real money — in the public interest.

It seems clear that the initial enthusiasm was misplaced and public money was being misapplied — otherwise the lack of follow-through is mysterious. Does it look like oriental passivity to you? I don't know, but pass the hookah.

Gerald Holtham is director of Institute for Public Policy Research

Indicators

TODAY — UK: Purchasing managers report (Jul).
UK: Provisional M0 (Jul).
WEDNESDAY — UK: Monetary Policy Committee meeting.
UK: Industrial production (Jun).
UK: Manufacturing production (Jun).

UK: PM report on services (Jul).
US: Beige Book.
THURSDAY — UK: CBI Distributive trades survey (Jul).
GER: Unemployment rate (Jul).
FRIDAY — US: Unemployment rate (Jul).
Source: HSBC Markets Limited.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 2.604	Germany 2.825	Malaysia 6.78	Singapore 2.78
Austria 19.81	Greece 470.24	Mexico 0.824	South Africa 8.75
Belgium 58.29	Hong Kong 12.32	Netherlands 3.175	Spain 235.82
Canada 2.369	India 69.77	New Zealand 3.09	Sweden 12.88
Cyprus 0.829	Ireland 1.116	Norway 12.057	Switzerland 2.365
Denmark 10.83	Israel 5.98	Portugal 268.87	Turkey 428,480
Finland 8.871	Italy 2.801	Saudi Arabia 6.03	USA 1.591
France 9.445			

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Briefing

Charlotte Denny

THE architect of the welfare state, William Beveridge, defined its goals as slaying the giants of Want, Ignorance, Disease, Squalor and Idleness. In the new managerial jargon instead of slaying giants, governments have performance targets. Labour came up with 32 by which to judge welfare reforms in the green paper last spring.

Today, a leading think-tank is proposing just four targets for measuring the

success of the Government's reform agenda.

The left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research says that clear targets are vital to measure the Government's success in tackling social exclusion.

The IPPR has made it clear that it should be judged on how successful it is at tackling the poverty and inequality it has inherited," says Peter Robinson and Carey Oppenheim from the IPPR.

A high-profile social exclusion unit has been set up in the Cabinet office to co-ordinate work in the area.

The unit is consulting on appropriate goals for measuring such effectiveness. The IPPR hopes its pro-

posed targets for combating poverty will be taken as seriously as the Government's inflation target.

The IPPR targets cover poverty, unemployment, education, and health — four of Beveridge's original five giants. Ms Oppenheim says they omitted housing because it was difficult to find accurate data.

The IPPR recommends the following indicators:

- Poverty: measured by the proportion of the population living on incomes below half that of the national average income — under the previous government this rose from 9 per cent of the population to 23 per cent.
- Unemployment: the pro-

portion out of work who have looked for a job in the last two weeks, which is the International Labour Office definition. Unemployment according to the ILO measure stood at 6.3 per cent in spring this year. Just over the level it was at in 1979.

- Educational exclusion: measured by the proportion of 16-year-olds failing to get 50 GCSE points.
- Health inequality: measured by the chances of people in the lowest social class dying earlier than those at the top of the occupational scale. Men in social classes IV and V die five years younger on average than in classes I and II.

Each indicator is backed up by supplementary targets. "If the indicators are widely agreed upon, they will become the measures by which the effectiveness of policies will be judged by parliament, the media and the electorate," says the report's authors.

So far the social exclusion unit has concentrated on specific issues like truancy. The IPPR says that the unit should have an overall view as well: "Our approach offers a clear prioritisation of areas of concern and an objective and multi-dimensional way of tracking progress."

Social Exclusion Indicators: A Submission To The Social Exclusion Unit, IPPR

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
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Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Small firms plead for life

Charlotte Denry

PRESSURE on the Bank of England to start cutting interest rates increased ahead of its meeting this week as industry leaders warned that small manufacturers faced the toughest business environment since the last recession.

The Bank is also under fire from the GMB general union, which claims today that Britain risks a recession unless "out-of-touch" economists are dropped from its key interest rate setting committee.

Small and medium-sized firms' export order books are at the lowest level ever recorded, according to the Confederation of British Industry and chartered accountants Pannell Kerr Foster.

The CBI repeated its plea for the monetary policy committee to start cutting interest rates. "This week's decision... is finely balanced but a 0.25 percentage point cut would give the right signal to our growing companies at a time when they are suffering from a strong pound and weakening domestic demand," said Colin Perry, chairman of the CBI's small

and medium-sized enterprises council. Orders are the weakest since January 1991 with export orders at their lowest level ever recorded.

John Edmonds, head of GMB, today called on Chancellor Gordon Brown to replace its members with "experts from the real world of industry".

"Manufacturing is being steered on to the rocks of recession by a crew who do not seem to mind how many jobs go overboard so long as they ultimately get to the Holy Grail of low inflation," he said.

Some City economists think

there is still a chance the Bank could raise rates this week despite the already weakened position of industry. But the GMB warns this could lead to up to 250,000 manufacturing jobs being lost this winter.

"It now looks as if key winds are going to blow through small and medium manufacturing firms this autumn and winter," said John Alexander, partner at Pannell Kerr Foster.

Mr Edmonds said the only member of the MPC who should be saved from the purge was DeAnne Julius, the former chief economist at

British Airways. Ms Julius voted for rates to be cut in June. "We need more people like her on the MPC who know how the real world works," he said.

"The members of the MPC have virtually no direct experience of industry and their apparent willingness to sacrifice good companies for the sake of a tiny drop in the inflation rate reveals their lack of concern for the real economy."

And the Bank of England risks alienating public support for low inflation if it tips the economy into recession, a leading City economist warned today. David Kern,

chief economist at NatWest, says inflation has been much lower since 1991 because the public attitude towards it has changed.

"Inflation has often been seen as a lubricant of growth," he says. But the deep 1990-92 recession brought about by the inflationary boom of the late 1980s had helped foster strong political support for price stability.

The MPC could destroy this support, he added, if it brings about a recession simply to bring inflation back down to the Government's 2.5 per cent target more speedily.

Economics Notebook

Lessons from an Irish wavelet



Victor Keegan

IF YOU were asked how Britain should approach membership of Europe's single currency you might be tempted to invoke the old Irish joke: "I wouldn't start from here."

But this is not a joke any more. Ireland is starting from here, with early similar handshakes to those preventing Britain's joining — high short-term interest rates, a strong currency and, possibly, an overheating economy.

Are they mad — or have we got something to learn from them? The Irish economy is an amazing phenomenon. When I visited Ireland in the early eighties the newspapers were calling it a banana republic without the bananas.

In those days the Emerald Isle was so deeply in the red that well over half its income tax revenue was needed to pay the interest on its burgeoning overseas debts. The economy (as measured by gross national product) was actually contracting.

Since then, Ireland has turned itself from a basket case into one of the world's fastest growing economies. It was regularly compared with the fast expanding economies of East Asia. Now that they have crashed, Ireland has the distinction of being the only "tiger" not to lose its stripes.

Even now it is still expanding at more than 10 per cent a year. Ireland will have to reduce interest rates by two to three percentage points in January, when the new European Central Bank sets a uniform interest rate for Euro-

land.

TO MAKE matters worse, Ireland hasn't got much scope to tighten fiscal policy to compensate for the expansionary effect of lower interest rates. Under the current rules, income taxes are due to be reduced. And there isn't much enthusiasm for increas-

ing the (low) rate of tax on corporations, because that is the golden goose that has laid so many industrial eggs.

Like Britain, Ireland has had the equivalent of an industrial heart transplant as overseas investment has poured in. This is the main reason for the economic revival. Exports of goods and services represent more than 90 per cent of gross national product. But, as Britain announced the closure of its £1 billion semi-conductor plant in the North-East, foreign-controlled investment can be the first to be abandoned when the going gets tough.

The Wall Street Journal recently attributed Ireland's success to supply side economics, such as 10 per cent corporate tax rates and low government involvement. But Garret Fitzgerald, the former Taoiseach, has pointed out that, while Britain was busy breaking the power of the unions, lowering personal taxes and privatising industry to achieve modest increases in growth, Ireland was doing the opposite. Personal taxation has remained much higher than in Britain and public funds have been used to expand infrastructure.

While the Conservatives (and New Labour after them) rubbish the concept of an incomes policy, the Irish government worked constructively with employers and employees to devise a series of "social contracts" to restrain wages in exchange for tax cuts. One has to put the words "social contract" in quotation marks for fear that New Labour might send in the heavies for reviving one of the nostrums of the sixties.

YET, if Britain's problem as we approach possible EMU entry is that earnings are rising too fast, would it not be prudent to send a posse to Dublin to see whether we might not have something to learn?

Will Ireland's economic miracle hit the bankers when EMU arrives in January and short-term interest rates drop from 6.5 per cent to between 3.3 per cent and 4 per cent (the expected euro interest rate)? People over there are remarkably sanguine. Terry Baker, of the Independent Economic and Social Research Institute, reckons that entry will produce a wavelet rather than a ripple, and that it won't be catastrophic.

Branson checks Chinese joy for BA

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BRITISH Airways and Richard Branson's Virgin group are squaring up for a new round of fierce competition to gain access to potentially lucrative routes into China, it emerged yesterday.

They are to contest the award of two new routes to Shanghai as part of a bilateral deal signed by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and the Chinese government.

The deal gives the Chinese new routes into Heathrow. John Wood, BA's Asia Pacific director, said last night that the Chinese had offered the Shanghai routes to British carriers. BA would be asking the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to operate them at a hearing in the autumn.

But BA faces a challenge from Mr Branson, who also wants to fly into Shanghai. The two will be arguing their cases strongly at the CAA hearings.

Mr Wood made it clear that BA wanted both Shanghai routes. He said a decision to split the routes equally would cause BA "economic difficulties".

The crew flying into Shanghai would have to remain idle for a week before flying back to the UK.

However, the Chinese have already agreed to add two further routes into Shanghai by the summer of 2000. As the first two routes are not likely to open until next summer, this would mean BA, Virgin or both would have to wait only 12 months for a further guaranteed expansion.

Flying by wire

RealPlayer: 757-300 First Flight

▶/⏮
⏭/▶
⏮/⏭
▶/⏮

News
Biz/Tech
Sports
Entertainment
Music
Daily Briefing

First new 757 for 16 years takes off on Boeing's Internet site

BOEING's newest plane — the 757-300 — made its inaugural test-flight yesterday. The new plane will be able to carry 20 per cent more passengers but fly them a slightly shorter distance. According to Boeing, this will allow cheaper air travel as the 757-300's costs per seat-mile are 10 per cent lower.

longer than its sister, the 757-300, which can carry 201 passengers, 4,390 miles. The new plane will be able to carry 20 per cent more passengers but fly them a slightly shorter distance. According to Boeing, this will allow cheaper air travel as the 757-300's costs per seat-mile are 10 per cent lower.

The first passengers on a 757-300 are likely to travel with Condor Flugdienst, a German charter carrier, which placed the first order for the new plane in 1996. Condor is buying 13 of the 300s, the first new member of the 757 family for 16 years, and is due to take delivery in January.

Icelandair has also placed

an order for two 757-300s. The plane has been assembled in Renton, with parts manufactured by 670 suppliers in 24 countries. It is powered by a pair of Rolls-Royce engines.

Footage of yesterday's two-and-a-half hour test flight will be accessible on the Internet from today on <http://www.boeing.com>

Future is electric for value-added goods market

Tony May

CONSUMER electronics will be the clear winner on the high street over the next five years, a time when ageing and increasingly discerning consumers are expected to watch their spending — according to retail consultant Verdict.

A new generation of digital products is expected to capture the public imagination, with a sizeable proportion of consumers replacing their televisions and perhaps video as well, while mobile telephones, computers and peripherals are expected to become more affordable thanks to price deflation.

New technologies such as mini-discs and digital cameras are coming of age, and this is expected to push up the share of total spending on electrical goods from 8.1 per cent last year to 9.5 per cent by 2002.

There will be fewer people in their 20s, says Verdict, so youth markets will be hit, while the accompanying slower formation of households will see cheaper home-ware and furnishings.

But there will be an older shopping population, with the number of 35 to 60-year-olds increasing faster than average. This is likely to mean a tightened focus on quality and value for money, espe-

cially on house and garden improvements, premium furniture and jewellery.

Marks & Spencer, helped by its new catalogue service and an extra two million square feet of floor space, should continue to dominate the mass clothing and footwear market.

Verdict favours menswear over womenswear for growth; men are expected to switch from sportswear to more mainstream clothing — but designer brands will remain important for the younger male market.

Verdict says talk of a consumer recession is alarmist, and that shoppers are not cutting back as sharply as in the early 1990s. But the memory of that recession is still fresh in their minds, and caution remains the watchword.

The consultant warns that after a buoyant 1997 — by far the best year of the decade so far — too many retailers have expected last year's growth of 5.2 per cent in spending on goods to continue. But Verdict expects this year to show growth of 2.2 per cent, with a rise to 2.6 per cent next year and 3 per cent in 2000.

This year and the next are likely to be subdued, says Verdict, as consumers react to economic uncertainty. But real incomes are likely to rise, and in the first decade of the next century economic pressure is expected to ease.

Halifax on the hate list

Jill Treanor

HALIFAX could soon be regretting its choice of the thieves' chorus for its latest advertising campaign when it learns later today that it received some of the worst media coverage of any British company in the second quarter of the year.

The former building society will discover that by contrast Nationwide, the biggest of the remaining mutuals, has topped the ratings of the 1,400 companies covered by Press-Watch, the reputation and media evaluation company.

Retail banks, which are in the midst of their interim reporting season and producing healthy profit figures, received the worst media coverage of the 43 sectors cov-

Loved

- 1 Nationwide Building Society
- 2 Standard Life
- 3 Tesco
- 4 Scottish Widows
- 5 Pearson
- 6 Daimler-Benz
- 7 Marks & Spencer
- 8 Great Universal Stores
- 9 Co-op Bank
- 10 Legal & General

Unloved

- 1 British Biotech
- 2 Northern Rock
- 3 Halifax
- 4 Newcastle United Football Club
- 5 BBC
- 6 RAC
- 7 EMI
- 8 Barclays
- 9 Woolwich
- 10 British Airways

ered by the quarterly Press-Watch survey, their poorest ever showing. Building societies are third in the rankings, beaten only by food retailers — always popular — and engineering vehicles.

According to Steve Virgin, marketing manager at Press-Watch, "if you want to get ahead, open a bank".

This, it appears, helps win glowing media coverage, in contrast to the existing retail

banking players which struggle to get positive press reports. Nationwide topped the table of individual companies because of its battle to retain mutual status. But Press-Watch's rankings only run to June 30, before the society disclosed that Brian Davis, its chief executive, was paid nearly half a million pounds in the year to April.

Standard Life, Tesco and Scottish Widows were next in

the table, all boosted by their banking arms, according to Mr Virgin. Co-operative Bank with its ethical stance, and Legal & General, the insurer with a banking arm, are also in the top 10. Bradford and Bingley is 11th.

Halifax was third from bottom while Northern Rock, slated by the Office of Fair Trading for the way it transferred customers between accounts, took penultimate place.

The prize for the worst media coverage during the second quarter goes to British Biotechnology, the drug company which has been embroiled in controversy since it fired Andrew Millar, its top scientist, after he raised concerns about the viability of two of its main drugs.

Its shares have crumbled from more than 300p to almost 30p.

Victoria and Thresher talk of name change

HIGH street off-licences Victoria Wine and Thresher are engaged in merger discussions which include a debate about whether their two well-known names will be retained, writes Jill Treanor.

The off-licences, which are the same size with approximately 1,500 shops apiece nationwide, are thought to have been discussing a tie-up for the past three months.

They are considering the impact of retaining the Thresher and Victoria Wine names, both of which are

thought to be popular with consumers. For this reason, it is likely that the two brand names will be retained, although competing outlets may be closed, which would threaten jobs at both companies.

Combined, the off-licences would have 3,000 branches, more than 15,000 employees and annual sales of £1.5 billion. The chains would use their consolidated might to take on the supermarkets, which dominate off-licence sales.

Tesco is the current market

leader, with a 14 per cent share of the drinks market, while Sainsbury's controls approximately 12 per cent of sales.

Thresher, owned by Whitbread, and Victoria Wine, part of Allied Domecq, each have approximately 7 per cent of sales.

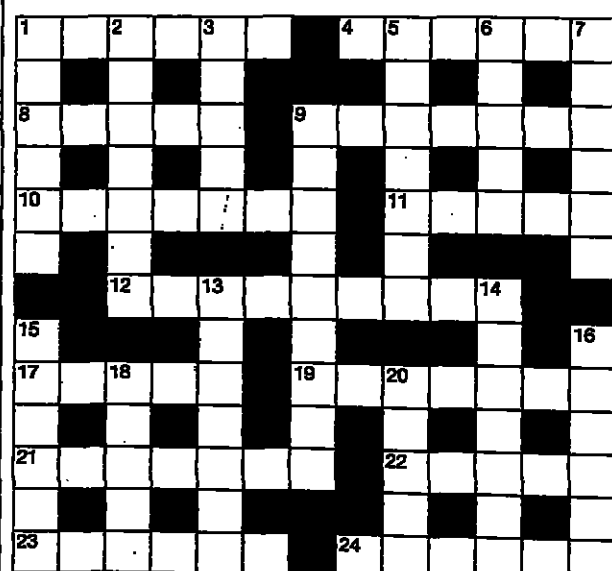
A joint venture between the two may raise monopoly concerns. While the combined off-licences will have a 14 per cent share of the market — below the threshold of 25 per cent usually used by the government to gauge monopolist

threats — in terms of the high street the impact would be much higher. Whitbread and Allied Domecq confirmed yesterday that talks were taking place about their off-licence arms but refused to give further details.

They are expected to tell the Stock Exchange about the talks this morning.

Victoria Wine includes the Hazards chain in Scotland and the up-market Wine Cellar range of larger stores, while Thresher includes the Wine Rack and Drinks Cabin stores.

Quick Crossword No. 8816



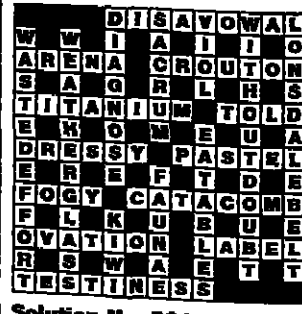
Across

- 1,4 Soft drink (6,6)
- 5 Festival (5)
- 9 Grappling iron (7)
- 10 Result of ingesting contaminated water (7)
- 11 Recurring part of music (5)
- 12 Form of credit (4,5)
- 17 Unshredded (5)
- 19 Dishevelled (7)
- 21 Implicate (7)
- 22 Composer of "Aida" (5)
- 23,24 Wanker's invention — are trying one (anag) (6,6)

Down

- 1,15 Young clerical worker (6,5)
- 2 Fatty (7)
- 3 Sticky, congealed matter (5)
- 5 Cut into four — ply (7)
- 6 Fruit (5)
- 7,16 Prisoner's voluntary fast (6,6)
- 9 Female cabaret singer (5)

- 13 Colonist — one paying the bill? (7)
- 14 Aristocratic Japanese warrior (7)
- 15 See 1 down
- 16 See 7
- 18 Long for another's property (5)
- 20 — Costner, actor (5)



Solution No. 8815

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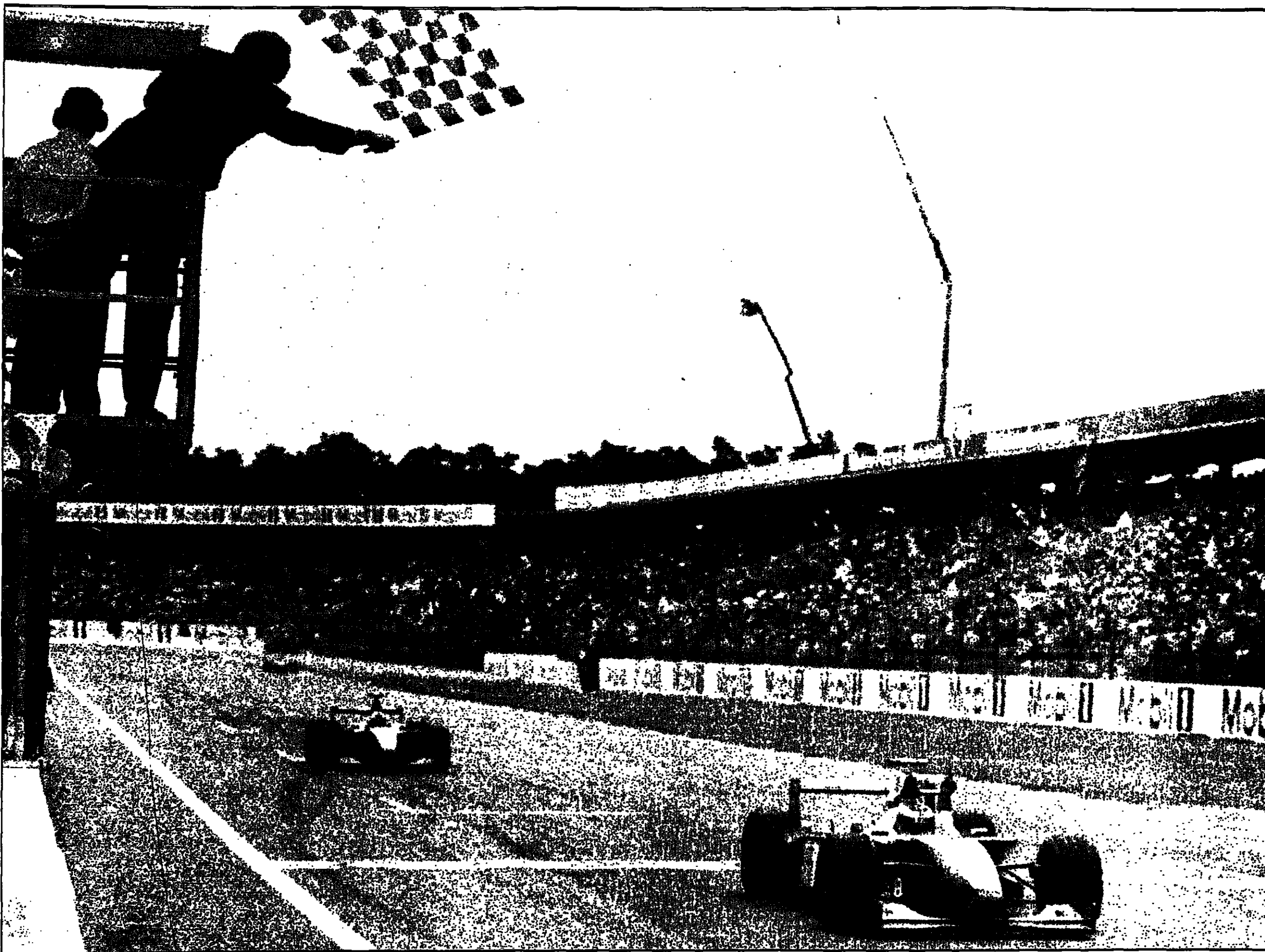
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Monday August 3 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

The German Grand Prix



Finn at the end... Mika Hakkinen crosses the line ahead of his team-mate David Coulthard with the world champion Jacques Villeneuve coming in third in the Williams

PHOTOGRAPH: OLIVER MUTHAUP

Hakkinen turns up heat on Ferrari

Full results from Hockenheim Round 11

Rank	Driver	Team	Time	Average speed
1	Mika Hakkinen (Finland)	McLaren-Mercedes	1:29:47.994	142.438mph
2	David Coulthard (Britain)	McLaren-Mercedes	0.427sec behind	
3	Jacques Villeneuve (Canada)	Williams-Mercedes	+2.578	
4	Damon Hill (Britain)	Jordan-Mugen Honda	+7.185	
5	Michael Schumacher (Germany)	Ferrari	+12.813	
6	Ralf Schumacher (Germany)	Jordan-Mugen Honda	+29.739	

Other finishers	Drivers' championship
7 Giancarlo Fisichella (Ita) Benetton +31.657	1 Hakkinen 36 points
8 Eddie Irvine (GB) Ford +31.657	2 Schumacher 30
9 Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Ger) Williams +32.785	3 Coulthard 22
10 Jean Alesi (Fra) Sauber +43.472	4 Hill 17
11 Alexander Wurz (Aut) Benetton +57.895	5 Villeneuve 15
12 Jarno Trulli (Jpn) Prost 1 lap	6 Fisichella 15
13 Yvan Muller (Lux) Tyrrell 1 lap	7 Frentzen 8
14 Mika Salo (Fin) Arrows 1 lap	8 Schumacher, R Schumacher 4
15 Olivier Panis (Fra) Prost 1 lap	9 Alesi 3
16 Esteban Tuero (Arg) Minardi 2 laps	10 Hill, Dier, Magnussen 1
Did not finish/not classified	Constructors' championship
17 Johnny Herbert (GB) Sauber 37 laps completed	1 McLaren 136 points
18 Shoji Nakano (Jpn) Minardi 36	2 Jordan 7
19 Roberto Benetton (Bra) Stewart 27	3 Stewart 5
20 Jos Verstappen (Hol) Stewart 24	4 Sauber 4
21 Pedro Diniz (Bra) Arrows 2	5 Arrows 4

Schumacher trails in behind McLaren one-two, reports Alan Henry in Hockenheim

MIKA Hakkinen and David Coulthard left Ferrari trailing for a second successive weekend when they delivered another display of McLaren-Mercedes superiority in Germany yesterday. Hakkinen's second win in seven days also celebrated the announcement that the two drivers would be staying with McLaren until the end of 1999. "We are happy with what they have done for us and believe they are both capable of being world champion," Mercedes director at the race, Jürgen Hubbert, said. This was McLaren's sixth one-two in 12 races including the last of 1997 and saw Hakkinen go 16 points clear of Michael Schumacher at the head of the drivers' standings. The German's Ferrari could finish no better than fifth after problems with the handling balance at speed. Third place went to Jacques Villeneuve's Williams ahead of Damon Hill, who scored the first points of his season in the Jordan-Mugen Honda. "I got into a good groove and kept pushing the entire distance," said Hill. It was the first time a Mercedes-engined Formula One car had won on German soil since the legendary Juan-Manuel Fangio won at the Nürburgring in 1954 and it repre-

sented another giant stride towards Hakkinen becoming only the second Finnish world champion since his manager Keke Rosberg won the title in a Williams 16 years ago. Coulthard ran steadily in the wheeltracks of the other McLaren to repeat the one-two of last week's Austrian Grand Prix. Both McLaren drivers were worried about the challenge posed by Villeneuve in the closing stages of the race. Hakkinen had eased his pace when his engine refused to pull as strongly as it should have done, causing Coulthard in turn to ease back slightly. Although the leading McLaren trailed an ominous haze of liquid which laid an opaque film across Coulthard's visor, the loss in performance was caused by Hakkinen leaning off the fuel mixture to make it less rich under instructions from his engineers. "At one point we were slightly worried that Mika's car had not taken on its full fuel allocation at the pit stop," said the McLaren managing director Ron Dennis. "Even though we then checked our figures and convinced ourselves that this was not in fact the case, we played safe by adjusting the mixture to run as economically as possible."

Because of this, Villeneuve trimmed Hakkinen's advance from 5.1 seconds on lap 33 to 2.1 seconds on lap 36, only for the McLarens to pick up the pace again. Coulthard drove defensively as they lapped slower traffic, protecting Hakkinen by dropping back to ensure there was a back marker between himself and Villeneuve. "Once you get to within a second or so of another car, you are into too much turbulence," said Coulthard, "so I thought there was too much at stake to try passing Mika. But I was seriously worried about Jacques because I know he is a committed racing driver and, if he sees half a gap, he will go for it. It was very uncomfortable."



Jacques the last, page 16

Continental
TYRES - ENGINEERED IN GERMANY

Football

Gillespie's £3.5m 'deal' with Boro

Michael Walker

A DEGREE of confusion last night surrounded the proposed transfer of Keith Gillespie from Newcastle to Middlesbrough.

It had seemed that the £3.5 million sale of the 23-year-old winger was signed and sealed on a five-year contract yesterday morning, subject to a lunchtime medical, and Middlesbrough had issued a press release confirming the deal. But after the two clubs had drawn 1-1 in a friendly at the Riverside both parties pulled back from saying that a deal had been completed.

"It's not 100 per cent tied up yet," said Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson. "We're still waiting for the deal to go through. But I have agreed a fee with Newcastle and personal terms with Keith, but he still has to get through his medical."

Robson was followed into the press room by a bemused Newcastle manager, Kevin Keegan. "If it has gone through I'll be disappointed because I haven't had the chance to speak to Keith," said the Newcastle manager. "I got a press release before the game that was just a bit of a surprise to Bryan Robson as it was to me. I was aware that a bid was put in that was acceptable to the club, but I would want to speak to Keith anyway."

Dalglish appeared to be implying that a deal was being concluded without his involvement, as if the board was selling a player without his consent, but he then clarified the situation a little. "Obviously if there are players coming in or out the manager knows."

The speed of any transfer deal and its premature announcement is probably the reason behind the confusion and neither Robson nor Dalglish like their business dealings to be widely known.

Earlier yesterday the player had said that he had heard of Middlesbrough's interest on Friday afternoon, when he spoke to Robson. Gillespie added that he had "no hesitation" in moving the 30 miles down the A19.

"I'd only a year left on my

contract with Newcastle and Middlesbrough have much to offer. Middlesbrough are like Newcastle three or four years ago; they signed big names and they've been to Wembley three times in the last two seasons."

Asked if Boro's ambition now outstrips Newcastle's, Gillespie replied, "No, I wouldn't say that. Last season was poor [for Newcastle] but there were a lot of injuries. It's the same as when I left Man United; it's a big challenge and I've got to be positive."

Gillespie also confirmed that he has not spoken to Dalglish. "There was only one meeting four weeks ago [between Gillespie and his representative and the club]. Keny doesn't really discuss contracts and with me being injured and the team away, I haven't talked to him."

Assuming the details are finalised today Gillespie will become the first Newcastle player Dalglish has sold this summer, having spent approximately £14 million bringing nine new faces to St James' Park.

Nottingham Forest have told Pierre van Hooijdonk that he cannot leave. Dave Bassett is fuming about the Dutch striker's reported comments that Forest were not good enough to survive in the Premiership, and that he was not prepared to stay and "let my career go down the pan."

Forest's manager said: "Once again Van Hooijdonk's lack of self-control has let him down with the comments he has made. He signed a five-year contract and was happy to do so. He has served only one year and I will not be accepting his request."

Stan Collymore's injured thigh has caused more problems for John Gregory as the striker will probably be sidelined for the first three weeks of the season. If Manchester United come back with an acceptable offer for Dwight Yorke it would leave Villa's manager short of options.

Collymore suffered a thigh injury in a friendly with Peterborough on Friday and limped away with it heavily strapped. His and Villa's fears were confirmed later.

Third time unlucky for Smith as Spurs find hope in Camera

IF EARLY impressions are anything to go by, Everton and Tottenham, two of the original members of the so-called Big Five, have much to do if they harbour hopes of qualifying for Europe, never mind being invited to play in any super league.

For Everton it was the Dutch club AZ Alkmaar who left Walter Smith looking for a first win as manager after his third attempt, the Blues slumping to a 3-1 defeat in Holland.

"We were very disappointed but hopefully we can learn from the mistakes we made," said the recent signing John Collins, who was substituted in the second half. Alkmaar, coached by the former World Cup finalist Wim van Hanegem, scored their first after four minutes

and two more early in the second half killed off the game. Tony Grant replied 15 minutes from time.

Titi Camera, a Guinean trialist from Marseille, took advantage of his chance to impress as Spurs drew 0-0 at QPR. He tested Lee Torick with a shot after only six minutes before embarking on a 40-yard run to set up Chris Armstrong with a header which was well saved. Spurs had the better of the first half but QPR were on top in the second.

Portsmouth's right-back Robbie Pethick was sent off for fighting during his team's friendly with Genoa on Saturday. He clashed with Sebastiano Vecchiola who was also sent off. The match finished 2-2 but Pompey lost 6-5 on penalties.

Scottish Premiership



High expectations... Rangers' new striker Rod Wallace, right, and Stefano Salvatori of Hearts in aerial combat at Tynecastle last night

Heart of Midlothian 2 Celtic 1

Hearts start beating very fast

Patrick Glenn sees Rangers fail to recover from a whirlwind opening at Tynecastle

HEARTS' dynamite start to an engrossing contest at Tynecastle last night caused enough damage to leave Rangers unable to carry out running repairs.

With a two-goal lead established after 20 minutes before conceding one before the interval, the home side, overall, were the more dangerous and more deserving of two hard-working teams.

The Hearts supporters were still buoyed by the memory of their team's last competitive outing, when they defeated Rangers in the Scottish Cup final. Even so, they could hardly have anticipated an opening period in which they scored twice and should have scored another two.

In that extraordinary 20 minutes, Dick Advocaat's fear that his Rangers players were not properly prepared for the rigours of the

Premiership looked well founded. With his central defender Lorenzo Amoroso suspended, Advocaat had to make do and mend.

The new Dutch manager's decision to convert Rino Gattuso from an energetic but largely uninvolved midfielder into a full-back brought Rangers additional problems. It was the Italian's poor positional sense that allowed Neil McCann, wide on the left, to give early notice of his threat.

McCann set up the first goal after only six minutes when he was supplied by Jim Hamilton's perfect kick from the middle and bolted for the dead-ball line. His cut-back did not seem too threatening but Gattuso and Craig Moore both failed to intercept and the ball came straight to a surprised Stéphane Adam, who simply rolled it past Antti Nieminen from six yards.

Adam should have completed his double soon after, when Gary Locke's precise pass down the line on the right beat Rangers' back four, and left the Frenchman to carry the ball towards Nieminen unchallenged.

Adam, however, pushed the ball too far ahead and the Finn blocked at the striker's feet. By the time Hearts scored their second, Rangers had not made a notable move at the other end.

McCann set up the second, stretching a leg to push the ball away from the dilatory Jones Thorne and straight to Jim Hamilton. The big forward side-stepped Sergio Porrini and drilled his left-foot shot past Nieminen from 10 yards.

Immediately after the resulting kick-off, Hearts gained possession and put Hamilton clear again. Nieminen saved the drive and the ball came to Adam, who would have scored had he kept the ball low. Instead, he lifted it shoulder high, allowing Nieminen to save. Even Hearts' superiority at

that stage, however, could not overcome the kind of good fortune which allowed Rangers back into the game.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst, on the edge of the penalty area, completely miskicked when attempting to shoot and the ball ran straight to Rod Wallace, who beat Gillespie Rousset from close range with a low, right-foot drive.

The introduction of Andrei Kanchelskii for Thorne and Gabriel Amato for Van Bronckhorst in the second

half was an indication of Rangers' need to produce more menace.

They did, for long periods, manage to look more in control than before the break but Hearts, despite conceding territory, mounted some dangerous breaks. McCann should have exploited one when Gattuso's miscue left him clear on the left, but, once again, the ball was overrun into the arms of Nieminen. It was more evidence of the time of year, when players with normally reliable control lack practice.

It was evident, too, from Hamilton's attempt to play Adam in after he had been released by Steve Fulton. Hamilton drove the pass with too much force and the opportunity was gone.

Wallace, who had showed admirable control for Rangers' goal, looked in need of more work a little later, when Ian Ferguson played the ball back to him on the edge of the area and the former Leeds forward sent it wildly over.

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Advocaat... fears realised

Rugby League

Super League: Castleford 22, Leeds 16

Win bonus helps Sampson regain his strength

Andy Wilson

DEAN SAMPSON is used to the trials and tribulations of life as a prop but, even for him, yesterday must have been hard to take.

The 31-year-old Castleford stalwart dragged his 18 stones around every blade of grass of the Wheldon Road pitch on a sun-kissed afternoon ideal for watching, but definitely not

playing, rugby league. Then, in the 73rd minute, with his team leading 16-16, Sampson was asked to make a tackle.

He looked up to see his fellow prop Mike Smith, a New Zealander who had been used in short bursts and made about 30 fewer tackles, galloping over the line to score the match-clinching try and take the man of the match award.

Still, Sampson had the consolation of a win bonus and

two points which keep his team in with an outside chance of making the top-five play-offs. His performance epitomised a Castleford team effort described by their Australian coach Stuart Raper as "one of the greatest victories in this club's history".

Castleford had only 16 fit players at training on Saturday but Mike Ford volunteered to play a back injury and turn out as a substitute. In contrast Leeds were fresh,

not having played since the first round of the Super League Roadshow three weeks ago. But crucially, they were without Tony Kemp, their former Castleford stand-off, who was the key figure in the victory over his old club at Headingley in April.

Neither his replacement, Iestyn Harris, nor the Welsh international's half-back partner Graham Holroyd was able to provide comparable direction. "I wasn't happy with my

six or seven," snapped their coach Graham Murray.

Kemp could be out for another fortnight after knee surgery, but Harris looks certain to return to full-back at Salford next Sunday. Leeds are still safe in the top three, but their chances of keeping pace with the leaders Wigan now look remote.

Yet they started promisingly, if fortuitously, when Richie Blackmore was awarded a try after a move

which carried a suspicion of a forward pass and an offside, and definitely included a knock-on by Holroyd; possibly the worst refereeing decision of the season. But Castleford hit back with 14 points while the Leeds loose forward Marc Glanville was in the sin-bins for a holding down offence, Jason Flowers and Jon Wells scoring tries and Francis Maloney kicking three goals.

In a game which gripped the 8,406 crowd, a new Super League record for Castleford, Leeds took a 16-14 lead just after half-time. Andy Hay releasing a superb pass for Francis Cummins to score his 13th try of the season and Harris landing three more goals.

But a try for the lively young stand-off Danny Orr regained the advantage for Castleford after 48 minutes, with Blackmore at fault for the second time having allowed Flowers past him far too easily in the first half. The game then hung in the balance for 25 more tense, exhausting minutes, with Sampson setting an heroic lead throughout before Smith grabbed the glory.

Castleford Flowers: Critchley, Maloney, Vowles, Wells, Orr, Davis; Sampson, Hayman, McKel, Sykes, A Smith, Smith, Salford: Harris, Russell, Ford, P Smith, Taylor.

Leeds: St Helens: Stirling, Blackmore, Cummins, Raper, Harris, Holroyd, Masella, Sheridan, Flegg, Farrell, Kay, Gammell, Salford: Harris, Russell, Ford, P Smith, Taylor.

Referee: S Cummings (Wigan).



Elliott... 'devastated'

is getting married on Saturday and many of his teammates had confidently expected to be able to attend the wedding. Now, however, they will be required at the Prince of Wales Stadium in Cheltenham to face the Crawley Jets, who beat St Albans 26-14.

St Helens 68 Huddersfield Giants 18

Saints cut Giants down to size

David Burke

BOTH these clubs are seeking a coach to revive fading fortunes but while the Saints will obviously set anyone a huge task it is Saints who will cause the bigger headache for the next man in charge.

Whoever takes over from Shaun McKrae at the end of the season must persuade the growing number of disillusioned supporters to return. The crowd of 4,327 for yesterday's match was easily the lowest of the season.

Phil Veivers, the former Saint in temporary charge at the bottom club Huddersfield, is still keen to take over the job permanently despite this humiliation.

However Veivers was clearly unhappy with his side's showing and said: "I have told my players to remove their shirts and look for their hearts after this inept performance."

"It was total capitulation which came through laziness in defence."

It has been a traumatic week for St Helens with the Great Britain scrum-half Bobbie Goulding suspended indefinitely for alleged misconduct and the coach Shaun McKrae informed his contract is not

Celtic 5 Dunfermline 0

Burley turns boos to cheers

Patrick Glenn

A DAY of celebration underlined by an emphatic performance from champions opening the defence of their title should not be remembered for a chorus of jeers. Only among Celtic's divided fans could such a triumph be turned into an ordeal.

The booing was directed at the club chairman, Fergus McCann, as he began to address the 59,220 crowd before the uncurling of the championship flag, wrested from Rangers last May after a decade of trying.

It came from those among the Parkhead support who believe that McCann has dragged his feet over the appointment of a successor to last season's successful coach, Wim Jansen, which has resulted in a lack of activity in the transfer market at a time when Rangers have spent more than £50 million through their new man Dick Advocaat.

But it was a ridiculous and embarrassing reception for McCann who, in four years, has brought the club from the edge of bankruptcy to their present status as the best team in the country, accommodated in one of the grandest stadiums in Europe and regularly attracting crowds of 60,000.

Those supporters who recognise the achievements were stirred to counter the hostility with appreciative whooping and hollering but that initial assault soured the day.

Certainly there is little debate over Celtic's need of new players - most notably a creator in midfield and a predator in attack - for the domestic and European challenges which lie ahead.

Equally there is little doubt that the recently acquired head coach, Jozef Venglos, will take steps to fill those vacancies and that the necessary funds are available. Venglos, however, insists on being allowed time to assess the strength of his present squad before making a decisive move. He was clearly distressed by the unpleasantness that McCann had to endure.

Craig Burley, whose hat-trick was the highlight of events on the field, was quick to discount any argument that the club needed to embark on a buying spree: "There is a good, settled team here, and bringing in a load of new players doesn't guarantee that it will improve things. We had trouble last season, when many of us were new here and it took some time to get it together."

It was hard to make judgments on Saturday as Dunfermline, last night's leading scorer Andy Smith after eight minutes and the goalkeeper Ian Westwater suffered a knee injury which reduced his effectiveness during Celtic's late onslaught. The other goals came from Simon Donnelly and Malky Mackay.

Round-up

New blood fails to stir Bradford Bulls who get the bird as Eagles produce a second-half fight-back and hold their line in defence

BRADFORD Bulls were booed off at Odsal after crashing to their fifth defeat in seven games, beaten 38-18 by Sheffield Eagles despite the introduction of their new signings Nathan McAvoy and Neil Harmon.

The visitors surged back from 16-16 down at half-time and looked by far the more organised and purposeful side, holding the Bulls scoreless in the second half.

The centre McAvoy, a £140,000 buy from Salford, and the prop Harmon, signed from Huddersfield, came on midway through the first half but neither

made an impression as the fading champions struggled to find any sort of rhythm.

Tries by the substitute prop Steve Molloy and the centre Keith Senior after an 80-yard dash to the line gave the Eagles a 28-18 lead in the 54th minute and there was no way back for the Bulls when Bright Sodeje winged over for his second touchdown.

The Eagles scrum-half Mark Aston marked his return with six goals and a drop goal in his first full appearance for three months after a wrist injury. The Bradford coach Matthew Elliott said: "I am

devastated by the crowd reaction as we came off the field but I felt like standing there and taking it for another 10 minutes because I deserved it."

Fili Seru scored two tries as Hull put on an impressive performance to despatch Salford 32-0 at The Boulevard.

Craig Murdoch, Mark Johnson and Gary Lester all crossed before half-time, and Seru's double and Logan Campbell sealed the victory.

Stanley Gane grabbed four tries to take his tally for the season to 32 as Hull KR, top of the Division One

table, thrashed Widnes 63-4.

Wakefield, in second place but with a game in hand on the Robins, crushed Keighley 56-16 to consolidate their position. Roger Kenworthy also weighing in with four tries and Salford-bound Garen Casey landing 10 goals.

Andy Wilson adds: The South Norfolk Saints took everybody by surprise - including themselves - by beating the northern favourites Chester Wolves in the semi-final of the Rugby League Conference in Bedford on Saturday. One of the Saints' players

مكتبة الامير

مكتبة الأمل

Football

Stephen Bates in Brussels and Russell Thomas report on potential European rebel clubs' moves towards a clean break and an escape to runaway riches

Super clubs wait on key legal ruling

SOME of Europe's top clubs, almost certainly including Manchester United and Arsenal, are expected to finalise plans for a European Super League this autumn in defiance of opposition from both national associations and Uefa, the European game's governing body.

Details began emerging at the weekend of a request for talks between these clubs and the European Commission in Brussels early next month to clarify whether soccer bodies would be able legally to prevent the European Super League if organised outside its control.

Discussions about such a league, played either mid-week or at the end of the season, in May or June, with all the attractions of a major European competition for advertising and sponsors, have been under way for months.

Among the ideas being discussed have been regional leagues — British clubs such as United and Rangers pitted against perhaps top Scandinavian sides, or a French, Dutch and Belgian grouping, culminating in a knock-out competition.

Wimbledon's controversial plan to move themselves to Dublin is in part a response to such European Super League proposals, conveniently re-positioning the club in one of the few countries in Western Europe without a major team suitable for such an elite.

The secretive moves to set up the European project have incurred outright opposition from the world governing body Fifa, Uefa and the Premier League as inevitably detracting from their own competitions.

However, the proposed

22 billion project bankrolled by the US bank J P Morgan is intended to replace Uefa's blue ribbon club competition, the European Cup, and not the Premiership or other powerful national leagues, such as Italy's Serie A.

But the European governing body is aware that the Uefa Cup, now recognised as its second strongest competition, while expanded in recent years, would also be affected if a 32-team European Super League evolves.

The impetus behind the plans for a European elite is yet another offshoot of the

European Court of Justice's Bosman judgment three years ago, giving players freedom without transfer fee to change clubs at the end of their contracts and ending artificial limits on the number of foreign players teams can play.

That watershed ruling held that such conditions imposed by a sports governing body represented a restraint of workers' freedom of movement.

Now lawyers in the field of European Union legislation are preparing to mount a more wide-ranging challenge on whether sporting govern-

ing bodies can impose rules on clubs as commercial organisations which effectively restrain their ability to trade.

Sports clubs these days are unarguably business organisations with huge commercial potential. A Belgian judge has already advised that a test case to establish Uefa's right to govern a commercial activity should be referred to the European Court.

If the court ruled that Uefa could not legally restrain a club's right to trade internationally under articles 78 and 79 of the Treaty of Rome, or

that by doing so the association was acting effectively as a cartel, the position of international governing bodies would be undermined because they could no longer impose competition rules on their sports.

It is understood that the European Super League representatives have already taken initial advice from Karel van Miert, the European Commissioner in charge of competition policy, to discuss whether the Commission, which is the EU's civil service, is likely to agree with their interpretation of the

treaty. Further talks with Van Miert are sought.

The Commission, however, is anxious not to get involved in arbitrating over sport and Uefa, in turn, want the issue sorted out without going to Brussels.

For their part, the Football Association have warned England's potential rebels that they face being kicked out of the Premiership and FA Cup if they sign up to an unsanctioned super league. The FA chairman Keith Wiseman also suggested that their players would be banned from playing for England.

Riverside pre-season tournament: Benfica 1 Empoli 1 (Benfica won 7-6 on penalties)

Gascoigne back among walking wounded

Michael Walker sees a couple of bright young things come out of overpriced yawn

ONLY 39 weekends to go. That was the reaction of one wag to the JD Sports Cup, the dismal two-day tournament the handful of people who turned up at the Riverside Stadium were subjected to at the weekend.

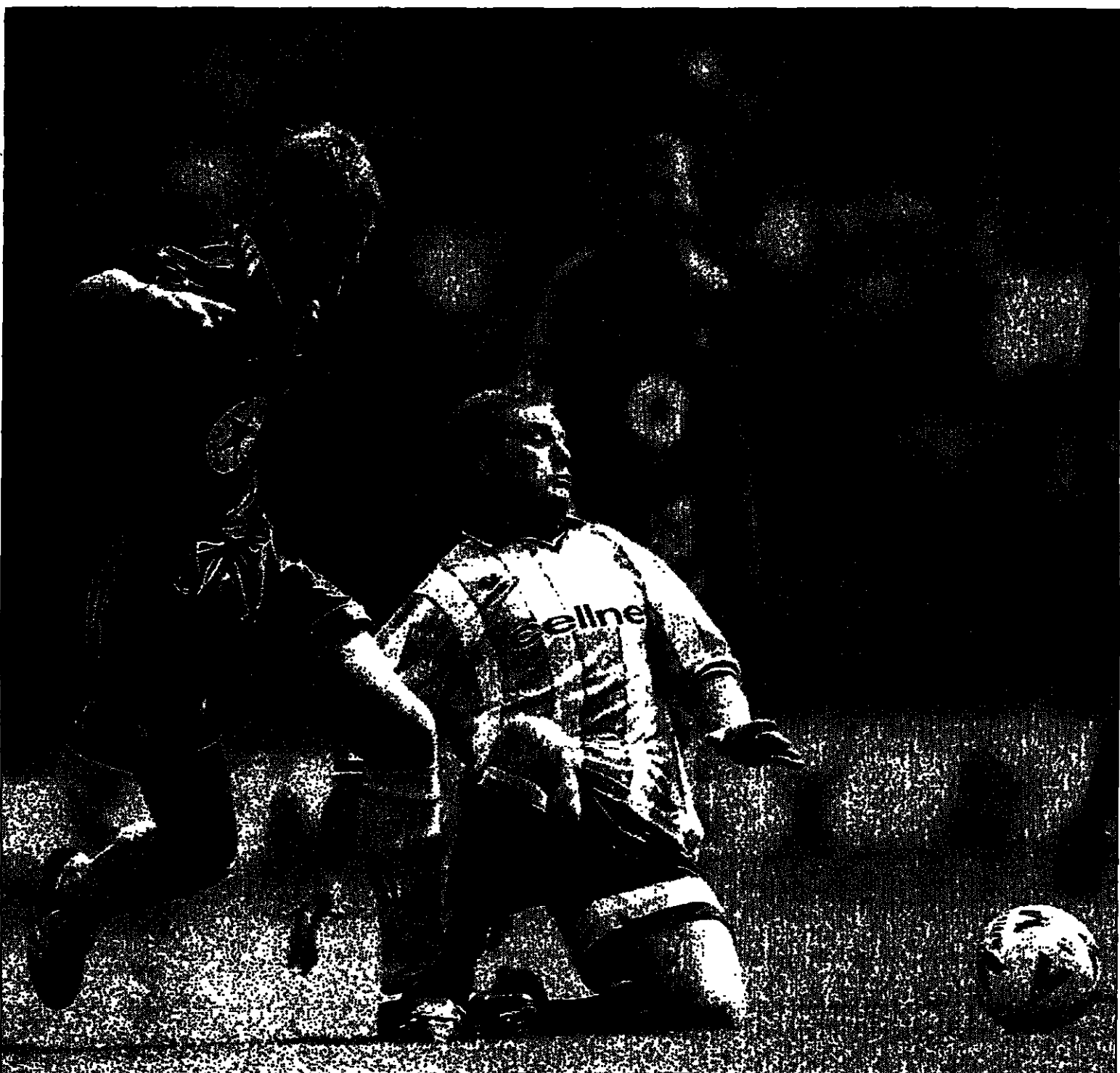
Festival of Football it was not and presumably the winners, Benfica, will put the trophy well to the back of their cabinet. Grassroots Alan Shearer, Stéphane Guivarch nor Dietmar Hamann made an appearance while Empoli displayed their high regard for the tournament by landing at Teesside Airport about an hour before kick-off.

Things got marginally better yesterday for the 300 fewer paying customers with Shearer playing 90 minutes, and scoring a cheeky penalty, but Gascoigne lasted only the first half before limping off with a calf strain. Bryan Robson, the manager, later said it was "not serious".

Gascoigne had done little but missing an easy chance when Maddison's neat chip exposed Newcastle square defence. Despite that, Boro were to take the lead following another shoddy piece of Newcastle defending featuring Alessandro Pistone and Philippe Albert. Both missed a straightforward cross from Paul Merson, allowing Robbie Mustoe to sneak in at the far post and head past Perez from four yards. Defending like that this autumn should see the odds on Newcastle being relegated tumble from 33-1.

Dalglish's team could have been three down by half-time as the belligerent Phil Stamp also hit the woodwork with a swerving shot. But on the restart Newcastle lived up and it was the manager's son Paul, nippy but frail, who won the penalty that Shearer finished so cockily.

The names of Shearer and Dalglish on the team sheet had caused a measure of excitement before kick-off. Shearer and Dalglish on the pitch caused less. It was that sort of weekend. Only 38 weeks to go now.



Old and new... Boro's Paul Gascoigne, appearing against his first club, is challenged by Newcastle's Paul Dalglish

PHOTOGRAPH: SHALIN BOTTRELL

Carlsberg Trophy
Leeds 0 Liverpool 2

Owen raises festive pulse

Charles Stuart
at Lansdowne Road

THE Michael Owen roadshow, crossed the Irish Sea in a single bound at the weekend and 30,000 fans left here believing they might have seen a young man destined to become one of the world's greatest.

Liverpool duly won the tournament thanks to second-half goals from Patrick Berger and, inevitably, Owen. The sponsors could not have wished for more.

Roy Evans, the joint-manager, took the press conference. Liverpool's central defensive combination of Jamie Carragher and Phil Babb in a 4-4-2 formation earned praise. But there was no disguising the fact that the Reds are still on the look-out for defenders.

That need could be emphasised in the club's two remaining friendlies, against Internazionale and Celtic, before the real business gets under way.

This tournament was all about Owen. Nobody really cared that the Chilean Marcelo Salas was missing through injury. Every time Owen took possession there was a buzz of anticipation. Those bursting runs down the middle, the close control and an ability to shoot on sight were nectar to the palate.

Berger's was a quality goal from 25 yards in the 56th minute, following a neat ball from the always impressive Steve McManaman. Leeds's Nigel Martyn, slightly off his line, had no chance. It earned enthusiastic applause but 50 seconds later the noise that greeted Owen's goal was tumultuous.

Paul Ince stroked the ball out to Owen on his left and Molenaar was left for dead as the 18-year-old sent a daisy-cutter snugly into the corner from 12 yards. It had all the hallmarks of a man who can do no wrong. Inevitably Owen picked up another Man of the Match award, a decision not lost on Evans.

"I think it gets to Michael that he is being picked out from the rest of the lads. He gets a bit of ribbing from the team, that he gets ahead before the game even starts," he said.

"The lad wants to be a team player. That's the way he is and, when he gets pulled away from that, he gets embarrassed. So we try and stress the team situation to everyone. That part is difficult for him: the rest of it he handles well."

Leeds: Martin, Hoggan, Martyn, Babb, Carragher, McAteer, Ince (Thompson, 58), Molenaar (58), Hesahibaint, Matthews (Lilly, 72), McPhail (Granville, 8-1).

Liverpool: Evans, Hoggan, Martyn, Babb, Carragher, McAteer, Ince (Thompson, 58), Molenaar (58), Hesahibaint, Matthews (Berger, 5-0, Owen (Dundee, 78).

Referee: D Byrne (Dublin).

Rugby Union

Tri-Nations Series: New Zealand 23 Australia 27

Hart threatens clear-out before World Cup

Greg Crowden
in Christchurch

THE All Black coach John Hart has indicated that at least four of New Zealand's best known players will miss next year's World Cup after his team's third consecutive defeat.

Hart, a coach not accustomed to losing one Test, let alone three in a row, said New Zealand's abysmal performance to lose the Bledisloe Cup at Lancaster Park on Saturday had forced him to rethink his World Cup planning.

Several All Black regu-

lars, including the prop Craig Dowd, the locks Robin Brodie and Ian Jones, the flanker Michael Little and even the scrum-half Justin Marshall will be struggling to hold on to their spots for New Zealand's next Tri-Nations match against South Africa in Durban on August 15.

Hart surprisingly brought the bulk of the squad to the after-match media conference, as if to explain that the blame for the 27-23 loss had to be shared by all and not just the coaching staff.

"We have decided we are now building to the World

Cup, and our next two Tests will be the start of that campaign," Hart said.

"Some of the players we thought might be going to the World Cup might now not be going. It is going to be a difficult call but this is a really dark time."

Meanwhile Australia celebrated one of their most special Test victories, with the Australian Rugby Union chief executive John O'Neill proclaiming in the Wallaby dressing-room: "I have just witnessed the silence of the lambs."

The Australian players were savouring a rare sporting moment — their first win in Christchurch in

40 years, the first time Australia had won the Bledisloe Cup on New Zealand soil since 1986 and their first victory on this side of the Tasman since 1990.

The Australian coach Rod Macqueen admitted to having a tear in his eye and the veteran centre Tim Horan rated the victory as being as special for him as his involvement in the 1991 World Cup winning team.

This was one of the greatest performances by an Australian team in New Zealand. Their defence was first-rate, their composure under pressure was crucial and their attacking charges always came at the right

time, enabling them to score four tries for a crucial bonus point which keeps their Tri-Nations series hopes alive.

The victor of the Tri-Nations will now be decided by the last series match between Australia and South Africa in Johannesburg on August 22.

SCOTLAND: New Zealand: Tries: Cullen, Lomu. Conversion: Maitland. 2. Penalties: Maitland. 2. Australia: Tries: Bowman, Burke, Little, Larkham. Conversion: Ellis. 2. Penalties: Burke. New Zealand's Cullen: Wilson, Maynard, Little, Lomu, Maitland, Marshall, Brown, Oliver, David (Pleat, 1-0, Brooks, 1 Jones, M Jones, Carr (Robertson, 60), Randall (Gard). Australia: Burke, Little, Horne, Moran, Poff, Larkham, Green, Brodie, Kearns, Crowley, Ellis (Cullen, Bowman, Kefu (Oshagwu, 68), Wilson, Cockburn. Referee: W D Brown (Wales).

England derive Games duo from Worcester source

THE England sevens squad for the Commonwealth Games later this year is to include two players from the Premiership Two side Worcester.

Jim Jenner and Nick Baxter are part of a 10-man party which has been chosen for the inaugural competition in Kuala Lumpur in September following outstanding displays in sevens tournaments in Amsterdam and Kenya this summer.

The director of rugby at Worcester, Les Cusworth, said: "Although the Games will clash with league dates, there was no way I could stand in the way of such a marvellous experience for Jim and Nick."

England's squad proper is planning a four-week training

camp in Australia, plus a one-off Test against the host nation, as part of the preparations for the 1998 World Cup in Wales and England.

The Rugby Football Union said it was discussing the proposal with its Australian counterpart and would announce details once they had been finalised.

The match, to celebrate the centenary of the sport in Australia, has been in the pipeline for some time but looked in doubt after the respective unions fell out over this year's ill-starred England tour to Australia.

England sent a virtual reserve team, citing injuries and tiredness to leading players, and were thrashed 76-0, sparking widespread condemnation from their hosts.



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Forza Italia... Marco Pantani safely negotiates a curve near the Arc de Triomphe on yesterday's run to the Tour's finishing line

PHOTOGRAPH BY PATRICK KOWAR

The Pirate climbs to greatness

William Fotheringham in Paris applauds the Tour de France triumph of Pantani as undervalued by diversions and defections

ALMOST invariably now the last day of the Tour entails a high-speed train trip to within pedalling distance of Paris and a gentle Sunday stroll before the final thrust up and down the Champs-Élysées. An end-of-term feeling pervades the peloton, who know that wives and families await in a five-star hotel on the Périphérique ring road.

A bottle of champagne was passed from rider to rider during yesterday afternoon's stage from Melun. To underline their work was over, the team-mates of Marco Pantani, who yesterday became the first Italian to win the Tour for 32 years, all bleached their hair blond. It could have been worse: when Pantani won the Giro d'Italia in June, they shaved their heads.

But the final stage was not without its nervous moments. Heavy showers left a greasy

sheen on the cobbles of the Champs, and the peloton negotiated the dead turn at the Arc de Triomphe with the utmost caution. Both Pantani and the Frenchman who finished fourth overall, Christophe Rinero, punctured but made their way back to the bunch.

Fortunately the cobbles dried for the final heart-stopping rush to the line, which went to the Belgian champion Tom Steels. He was expelled last year for throwing a bottle at a rival and has returned to take four stage victories, more than any sprinter since 1988. Paris has been on the minds of most riders since the Tour came close to ending on Wednesday: the relief as the chequered flag approached yesterday must have been more acute than usual. This has been the Tour of the two Ps: Pantani and the police, whose investigations into banned drugs have led to

strikes, arrests, searches and stand-offs.

Pantani did not feel his victory had been devalued by the scandals. "It was very special psychologically and nervously," he said. "No sport can be compared with this as we lived three weeks of intense competition with, on top of it, doping problems and police threats. The fear of police has without any doubt made this Tour cleaner."

The Italian's has been an epic victory, taken in a style which the Italians call *all'italiana* — in the old way. The lone raid of 'The Pirate' across the Alps a week ago to take the yellow jersey as the 1997 winner Jan Ullrich struggled in the rain was worthy of any of the Tour's great climbers, such as Lucien van Impe, the last mountain man to win the Tour, back in 1976. Pantani forged his Tour win on an eggshell-blue Bian-

chi bike, the same make ridden by the only other Italian to win both the Giro d'Italia and Tour in the same year: Fausto Coppi, who did the double in 1952. The resonance will not be lost on the Italians, who have sought for two generations for a cycling hero capable of emulating the *campionissimo*.

When Pantani started the Giro, Ullrich was engaged in a desperate last-ditch attempt to find form after a winter of excess and a spring of illness. It is impossible to say for certain in the Tour whether the German's collapse in the opening Alpine stage was related to his poor build-up but it seems likely. In any case he lost so much time that Pantani had no need to worry about the final time-trial stage on Saturday in eastern France, even though this is not his speciality.

The German's time-trial victory was inevitable and took his tally of Tour stage wins to three but, in overall terms, he did little more than peg Pantani back to a reasonable margin, taking 2min 35sec off the Italian, while swapping third place for second at the expense of the American Bobby Julich.

Last year Ullrich showed the ability to annihilate the climbers against the watch — the hallmark of Miguel Indurain — but in this Tour he never gained enough time to destroy Pantani's hopes. He finished 3min 21sec behind the winner.

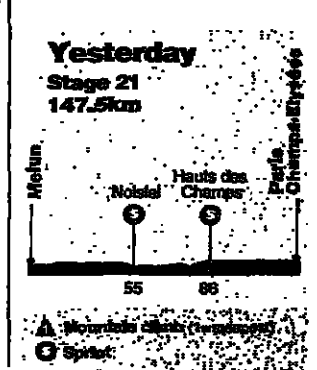
However, the final week of this Tour may well mean

more to Ullrich in the long term than his second place overall suggests. Still only 24, the man from Rodstock has now finished second, first and second in three Tours. His spectacular attempt to dislodge Pantani over the climb of the Madeleine the day after he had effectively lost the race suggests that under his dour exterior lurks a wealth of character.

Ullrich seems to have grown up during this Tour; he graciously admitted on Saturday that he had made a mistake by failing to stay on the straight and narrow last winter, when he took on the proportions of a barrage balloon rather than a cyclist.

"I won't make the same mistake again," he said. "It's a lesson that I have to learn, right now." The prospect of Ullrich building properly for next year's Tour and taking on Pantani — large, dour German all-rounder against tiny, ebullient Italian climber — is truly mouthwatering.

William Fotheringham is assistant editor of Cycling Weekly.



Fall-out goes on beyond the finish with talk of cleanliness clauses

Teams and sponsors will recast their deals, believes William Fotheringham

THE Tour is over but the drug investigations which have overshadowed this year's race are set to continue for the next few weeks at least. Today the six riders from the Dutch TTM team, who quit the Tour last week, are expected in Rome for questioning over the discovery of erythropoietin (EPO) in their team lorry; their doctor and manager have already been charged over the affair.

The ramifications of the seizure of EPO and steroids in a Festina team car, which sparked off the series of revelations which have rocked this Tour, have already extended to four other teams — Once, Casino, BigMat and Française des Jeux — and will go further. Riders from Once, whose team doctor has been charged over drugs, are expected for questioning by the investigating team in Lille, as are those from Casino. One of their number, the Italian Rodolfo Massi, was charged on Friday with trafficking although he has claimed that the corticosteroids found in his hotel room by police were necessary to treat his asthma. The former world champion Luc



Easy rider... Steels wins the final stage LAURENT REBOURS

Leblanc, who rode with Festina in 1991, is also likely to be questioned. The revelations seem to have done nothing to dent the Tour's popularity with the French public. Indeed the opposite seems to be the case if the messages of support along the route in the last few days are anything to go by. The Parisian papers may have called for the race to be abandoned but the average French citizen appears to feel that doping is a necessary component of the national summer.

Festina have announced that their team sponsorship will continue at least until the

end of the season: after that the team's future is unclear. However, the long-term effect on the willingness of sponsors to enter the sport will be seen only when contracts expire and new backers need to be found: in some cases this is several years distant. What seems likely is that companies backing teams will introduce "cleanliness clauses" under which their contracts with the company running the team is rendered null and void if a rider tests positive. The Dutch team Rabobank is run in this way, while Crédit Agricole, who took over backing Chris

Boardman's Gan team as of today, have a get-out clause "if the team were to diverge from irreproachable sporting ethics and conduct".

There are also suggestions that all companies who invest in cycling should donate 1 per cent of their investment to a fund to finance research into tests for drugs that are currently undetectable such as erythropoietin.

The peloton was smaller than usual at the end of this year's race and it may be that way next year. Bearing this year's experiences in mind the Tour organisers are set to vet teams for "morality" before permitting them entry to the race. Teams with riders who have tested positive will be barred, as will any who have been raided by police.

There are also fears that the Tour will see fewer entries from the Spanish, who quit en masse on Wednesday. The boycott was apparently organised by the manager of Laurent Jalabert's Once, who said, "I have stuck my finger up the Tour's arse." The race organisers are not reported to be impressed.

The response of the International Cycling Union, the governing body, is less clear. Several top cyclists have called for the resignation of its president, the Dutchman Hein Verbruggen, who has been conspicuous by his absence as the doping scandals have ground on. His return from holiday in India is eagerly awaited.

Day by day in the doping drama

July 8 Festina team masseur Willy Voet stopped at France-Belgium border. Car contains more than 400 doping products, including banned blood booster erythropoietin.

July 10 A court in the northern city of Lille puts Voet under formal investigation — one step short of being charged in French law.

July 11 Tour begins in Dublin.

July 14 Voet changes story and admits doping products were for team use, not his own.

July 15 Festina team chief Bruno Roussel and team doctor Erik Ryckaert detained and questioned by police.

July 16 Roussel suspended by the International Cycling Union, the world governing body.

July 17 Roussel admits systematically supplying illegal drugs to team under strict medical control; he and Ryckaert also placed under formal investigation and detained. Tour expels Festina team.

July 18 Team doctor Richard Virenque leaves Tour in tears.

July 21 Ryckaert's lawyer says there was a system of funding illegal drugs through team members' winnings.

July 22 — Under questioning five Festina riders admit taking drugs.

Dutch TTM riders taken away for questioning. TTM team director Coes Priem and doctor Andrei Mikhailov also detained and questioned.

July 24 — Roussel, Ryckaert and Voet meet in a Lille court. At the start of the 12th stage, remaining riders protest, delaying start for two hours.

July 25 — Police search hotel rooms of team members. TTM riders taken to hospital and given lengthy medical tests — including the taking of blood, urine and hair samples.

July 26 — Remaining Tour riders stop the stage to Aix-les-Bains twice to protest treatment of TTM and the police raids on their hotels — riders dismount and tear off official numbers. Stage eventually continues, but slowly. Four teams drop out of race. Tour decides to annul stage. Tour takes 38 hours to cover 59km. Casino rider, Rodolfo Massi, is detained by police for questioning along with Once team doctor Nicolas Verdon.

July 30 — Two more teams drop out, along with some individuals, including former world champion Luc Leblanc. Massi, leading in the Tour's King of the Mountains standings, does not start 18th stage — the first time a rider is barred from competing due to police questioning.

July 31 — Massi and Terrados placed under formal investigation. Remaining riders of TTM team drop out. 14 teams left from original 21, less than 100 riders from original 189.

August 1 — Pantani holds his own in the final 52km time-trial. Le Monde's front page echoes disillusionment expressed by commentators: "The Tour de France: a broken legend." The daily continued: "Undermined by drugs, destabilised by police inquiries, accelerated by the obstinacy of its managers, the Tour staggered along." The Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc speaks out to Le Figaro: "The Tour does not want to be betrayed any more. This year we travelled our own road to Damascus."

August 2 — Tour ends in Paris.

Motor Racing

Williams silence the prophets of doom

James Mitchell in Hockenheim hears a message from the world champions

IN THE Williams motorhome someone congratulated the team's technical director Patrick Head on Jacques Villeneuve's first podium position of the year. "It's hardly justified for third place," replied Head, "but I suppose it is a little bit better."

They are tough to please at Williams and, given the team's lofty position in Formula One during the decade, it is true that third place is not much to get excited about.

But this is not a typical Williams season. Until Villeneuve's strong performance here in the German Grand Prix yesterday it had been a long time since a team which has won four drivers' and five constructors' championships in the past six years had looked genuinely competitive. The reigning champions, Williams had managed to finish in the top three only once before yesterday and the prophets of doom in the paddock have begun to write them off.

The theory goes thus: Williams are finished for years to come. They have lost their brilliant chief designer Adrian Newey to McLaren. Next year will be a restructuring year waiting for the engine deal with BMW to start in 2000. The BMW engine itself will take years to become competitive. Head, who recently became a father at 52, is losing interest.

In short, the team is on a barely concealed downward spiral.

That is what they say, anyway. But yesterday Head did not sound or respond like a man who had lost interest. While most outsiders felt that Villeneuve being involved in a true fight for the lead was a genuine cause for celebration, Head remained the perfectionist realist. He talked about how conservatively McLaren had played the race and how Williams looked so good only because Ferrari had had such a poor weekend.

"Things are getting better," he allowed, "but there is no satisfaction in producing a car that is so far away from the pace at the beginning of the season. I hope

that next year we don't put ourselves through the mill so much."

Disappointing year or not, Williams have been the centre of attention in Hockenheim this weekend. As F1's traditional mid-summer season they are the only top team not to have a settled next year's driver line-up.

Villeneuve is leaving to join the new British American Racing team and will almost certainly be replaced by the Italian Alex Zanardi, currently the leading light in the American Champ Car series. But the second seat is still open and Williams appears to be talking to most of the available drivers in the pit lane.

In addition the engine supply is said to be in doubt because of a row over terms with Mecachrome, which supplies the Renault engine.

"Pure speculation," says Head. But it is this kind of uncertainty that fuels talk about decline and led Villeneuve to decide he had little to lose by walking away. More experienced members of the F1 fraternity are wary about writing off a team with the determined, winning spirit that shone from Head after the race, and Villeneuve during it.

Williams has been chipping away at its troubles some car all season and there have been signs in the last few races that they are back on the right track. Villeneuve threw away a potential win in Canada in June and he was third on the grid at Silverstone last month before rain in the race ruined his chances.

"Credit to Williams," said Ron Dennis, whose McLaren are well on the way to taking Williams's title. "The performance they have found here isn't going to go away. They'll be strong until the end of the season."

Villeneuve agrees: "It's a great feeling to be back on the podium. The whole weekend started well and, when that happens, you feel up and it gives you new energy. The good thing today is we weren't far behind the McLarens. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year."

Tennis

Henman gets a final feeling

Stephen Bierley

TIM HENMAN, recapturing some of the form that took him to the semi-finals at Wimbledon last month, reached his second ATP Tour final of the year with a straight-sets victory over the Frenchman Guillaume Raoux at the Mercedes-Benz Cup in Los Angeles.

The victory edged Henman closer to the world's top 10 and increased his chances of playing in the ATP Tour Championship in Hanover this November.

Henman, seeded No. 2, defeated Raoux 7-5, 6-3 after Andre Agassi had sealed his place in the final with a 6-0, 7-6 victory over his compatriot Justin Gimelstob. "Andre is somebody I watched a lot when I was coming up through the ranks. I don't think there's a more exciting opponent," said Henman.

The British No. 2, who had defeated Grant Stafford of South Africa, Jeff Tarango of the US and Zimbabwe's Byron Black, produced his most effective serve-and-volley tennis against Raoux, including eight aces.

"This was my best match this week," said Henman. He began shakily, falling behind

3-1 after dropping serve in the third set but recovered to put the set back on serve two games later.

After taking a 6-5 lead, Henman clinched the opening set when Raoux hit a forehand long. In the second Henman rode a lone service break in the fourth game to victory, completed with a pair of service winners clocked in excess of 130mph.

Henman's previous final this year was just before the Australian Open, when he lost to Slovakia's Karol Kucera in Sydney. Although grass is his most effective surface, Henman demonstrated his liking for hard courts by reaching the semi-finals of this year's Lipton Championships in Florida.

Agassi's first set, in which he allowed Gimelstob a mere 11 points and did not lose a game, was a prime example of his return to form after a miserable 1997 when he dropped out of the world's top 100 — although he has yet to reproduce this at Grand Slam level. Gimelstob, who defeated the top seed Patrick Rafter of Australia in the quarter-finals, gave Agassi a more competitive second set, taking it to a tie-break. But the fifth seed never looked in danger of going to a third set as he dominated the tie-break 7-2.

Seles left gasping at Venus aces

Venus Williams overwhelmed Monica Seles with a 70-minute show of athleticism and tenacity that disposed of the former world No. 1 6-3, 6-4, to move into the final of the Bank of the West Classic in California.

Williams belted 12 aces and numerous service winners to the corners, ripping slice serves into the deuce

court that Seles could barely wave at, let alone get a racket on.

"Venus hits serves at 120, 125 mph; even males would have a hard time returning those," Seles said.

The top seed Lindsay Davenport was also in inspired form in the other semi-final, beating the fourth seed Steffi Graf 6-4, 6-7, 6-3.

Slogger

Aside-on glance at cricket



The Drink 'n' Drugs XI They weren't averse to the odd snifter/drag/snip

By David L. Byrd
The Drink 'n' Drugs XI were a team of cricketers who were known for their love of alcohol and drugs. They were a team of cricketers who were known for their love of alcohol and drugs. They were a team of cricketers who were known for their love of alcohol and drugs.

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Gratuitous Graphic

England draw strength from the Headingley Hobdod



England's victory over South Africa at Headingley was a significant moment in the history of the game. It was a victory that was achieved through a combination of skill, strategy, and a bit of luck. The team was led by a captain who was known for his leadership and his ability to inspire his players.

Six steps to Devon



The team's success in Devon was a result of their hard work and dedication. They had spent a long time preparing for this match, and they were determined to win. The team was led by a captain who was known for his leadership and his ability to inspire his players.

Every thing you wanted to know

Just what you need to know about the team's performance. The team was led by a captain who was known for his leadership and his ability to inspire his players. They were a team of cricketers who were known for their love of alcohol and drugs.

nan gets feeling

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The waiting game... Hansie Cronje watches the Essex groundstaff clear away the puddles at the County Ground Chelmsford yesterday. South Africa's last match before the Headingley Test on Thursday ended in a draw (report, page 24)

AXA League round-up

Austin swings Lancs to top

WITH their three main rivals for the AXA title otherwise engaged yesterday, Lancashire went joint top with Essex after an astonishing Leicestershire collapse at Old Trafford.

Needing 184 to win, Leicestershire battled to 185 for two in the 31st over and looked all set to march into the top four. Instead they slumped to a 20-run defeat, shot out for 163.

The seamer Ian Austin turned the game by coming back to bowl Aftab Habib in a wicket maiden.

Peter Martin then demolished the visitors with three wickets in the next over, sending back Darren Maddy, Jon Dakin and Dominic Williamson as they tumbled to 149 for seven.

Austin and the captain Waseem Akram finished off the win, Austin claiming three for eight from 7.4 overs.

Lancashire's 183 for seven saw Neil Fairbrother make a timely return from an ankle injury which had kept him out for three weeks.

Another collapse, at New Road, saw Yorkshire move up by beating Worcestershire, who were cruising at 101 for one after 20 overs.

Then the Tykes introduced the left-arm spin of Darren Lehmann and the seamers of Anthony McGrath, who took four quick wickets between them to seal a 203 to win.

Earlier Bobby Chapman had claimed a competition-best five for 30 after Yorkshire had been sent smartly on their way by Leicestershire, who hit 59 from 64 balls.

Hampshire also made up ground on the leading pack with a home win over Durham thanks to an unbroken Ayres and Giles White at Southampton. They came together with Hampshire on 112 for three in pursuit of Durham's 229 for five and saw their team home with 15 balls to spare.

An unbeaten half-century by the former Gloucestershire player Andrew Symonds took Australia A to a routine five-wicket win over a Scotland Select XI in the one-day international at Aberdeen yesterday.

The Scots captain Ian Philip had defied a wet track to hit 100 as his side mustered 188 for eight but the target proved straightforward for the tourists, who are coached by the former Australia captain Allan Border, and they won with 13 balls to spare.

County Championship: Warwickshire v Glamorgan

Smith left to save the day

John Beaumont at Edgbaston

A DEFIANT innings from Neil Smith yesterday exposed the muddled thinking that has blighted Warwickshire's title hopes this season.

Smith, overlooked for the captaincy during the winter in favour of Brian Lara, appears to have become a casualty of dressing-room politics.

He denied the defending champions their third win of the summer.

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Yesterday Lara was bowled giving himself room against Dean Cosker's left-arm spin, and to date has only 420 runs from 19 championship innings.

The fact that Matthew Maynard felt able to set Warwickshire a generous target of 290 in 75 overs was evidence that Lara no longer frightens county attacks, even one depleted by the absence of the

injured Waqar Younis, and Steve Waugh.

The recently capped Darren Thomas manfully shouldered the additional burden as he took five for 84 in 20 overs of aggression and enthusiasm.

Thomas was well supported by the seamer Andrew Davies, who moved the ball both ways despite an awkward chest-on-action, in only his second championship game.

Smith's initial aggression in the hunt but the departure of Cosker, Waugh and Ashley Gliles forced him to put up the shutters in an innings that can only have enhanced his prospects of succeeding Lara as captain.

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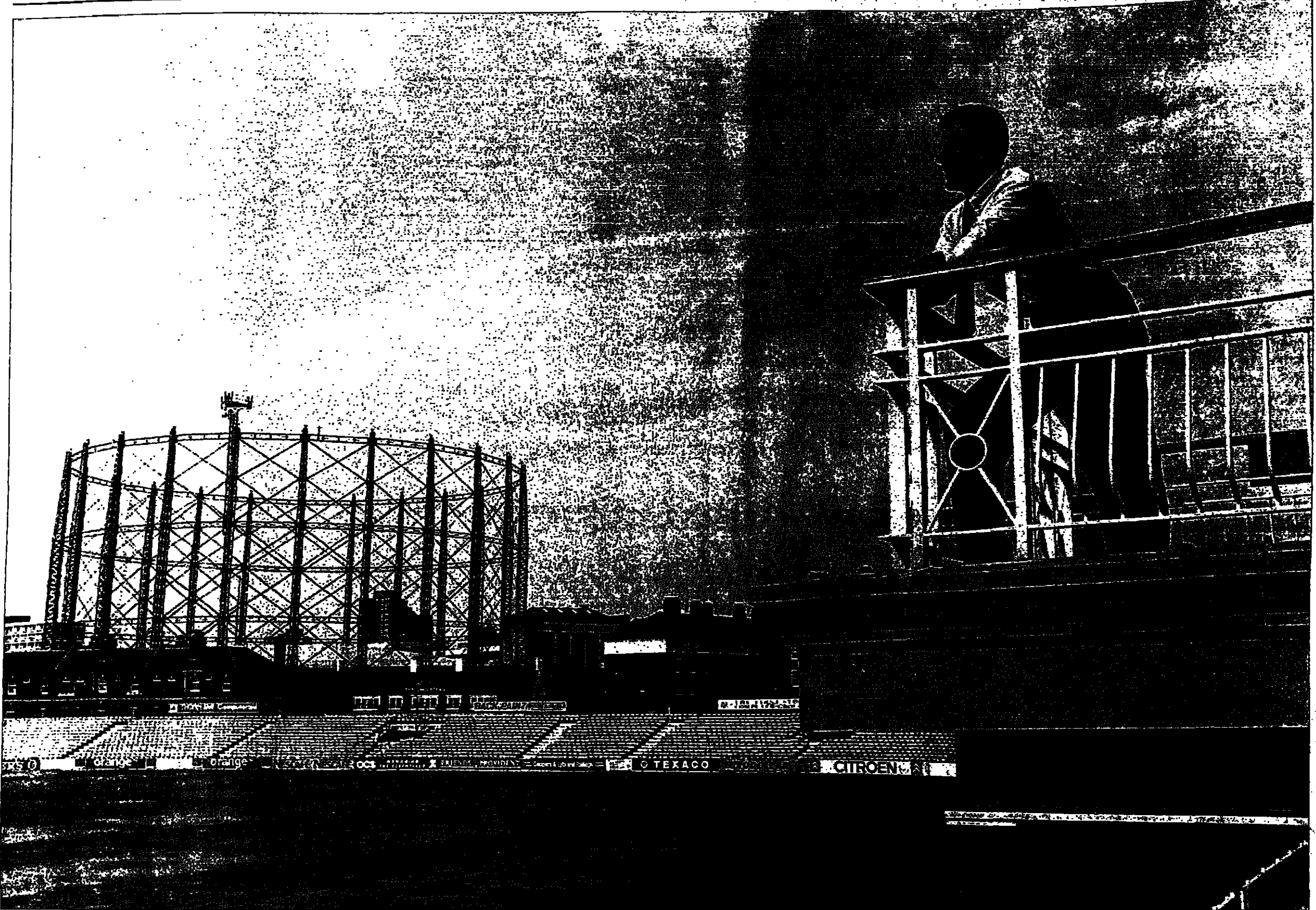
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Scoreboard

AXA League		League table		Tour matches	
DERBYSHIRE 4		ESSEX 7		ESSEX 7	
KENT 0		GLAMORGAN 7		SOUTH AFRICANS	
Derbyshire won by eight wickets		Glamorgan won by 20 runs		Chesham Match drawn	
Derbyshire 185 (40 overs)		Glamorgan 163 (31.4 overs)		SCOTTISH AFRICANS First innings	
T. Ward 57, D. Smith 44, J. Martin 33, J. Taylor 21, J. Smith 19, J. Smith 18, J. Smith 17, J. Smith 16, J. Smith 15, J. Smith 14, J. Smith 13, J. Smith 12, J. Smith 11, J. Smith 10, J. Smith 9, J. Smith 8, J. Smith 7, J. Smith 6, J. Smith 5, J. Smith 4, J. Smith 3, J. Smith 2, J. Smith 1		J. Smith 185 (40 overs), D. Smith 44 (20 overs), J. Martin 33 (20 overs), J. Taylor 21 (20 overs), J. Smith 19 (20 overs), J. Smith 18 (20 overs), J. Smith 17 (20 overs), J. Smith 16 (20 overs), J. Smith 15 (20 overs), J. Smith 14 (20 overs), J. Smith 13 (20 overs), J. Smith 12 (20 overs), J. Smith 11 (20 overs), J. Smith 10 (20 overs), J. Smith 9 (20 overs), J. Smith 8 (20 overs), J. Smith 7 (20 overs), J. Smith 6 (20 overs), J. Smith 5 (20 overs), J. Smith 4 (20 overs), J. Smith 3 (20 overs), J. Smith 2 (20 overs), J. Smith 1 (20 overs)		408-5 dec (D. Cullinan 157, G. J. Lubeberg 100)	
Derbyshire 185 (40 overs)		Glamorgan 163 (31.4 overs)		Second innings (over/outs)	
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On the eve of Thursday's deciding Test, **Paul Weaver** takes his rationed slot in the neat world of England's captain, keeper and front-line batsman and finds more than meets the eye

Stewart the three in one

A PAIR of 3-D spectacles is needed these days for a true perspective of Alec James Stewart, captain of England, who this week might lead his side to their first victory in a major series for almost 12 years. If he does and then captains a successful Ashes campaign, with a World Cup win as an encore, it is easy to imagine Hamleys selling him as a toy — the butane, wicketkeeping, strutting, barking, all-singing, dancing Gaffer — and it would take a second glance to differentiate it from the original.

There is more to the pop-up Stewart than meets the eye. He has a quick and sometimes biting wit, he is the perpetrator of some outrageous dressing-room practical jokes and that gleam in those pale, clear eyes is pure mischief, betraying a man who knows how to relax and let his hair down —

if only it were not cropped short in the style of a marine. Yet the public persona — the jaunty confidence, the matter-of-fact interviews and chest-out competitiveness — is no lie. It comes from within and is hugely impressive. If Stewart did not exist, the image-conscious England and Wales Cricket Board would feel a need to invent him.

The cricketer known as Mr Squeaky is the most approachable of the recent England captains. He is courteous and co-operative, perfectly dressed on and off the pitch and organised to the point of meticulousness. He has an easy manner with the media and comes complete with a no-scandal warranty. He is a terrific cricketer too.

His first sporting hero, after watching the 1966 World Cup on his mother's knee as a three-year-old, was Geoff Hurst. But, with his extreme neatness, his carefully folded

shirts, his numbered batting gloves, his face creams and vitamin tablets, he more closely resembles the fastidious Bobby Moore, whom he met twice. Stewart is so tidy that, if one opened the glovebox in his car, one would probably find a pair of gloves.

Nothing is packed away so neatly as his private emotions. "Two years ago, when his form faltered, both his wife Lynn and his mother Sheila suffered brain-related illnesses. He never spoke about it."

David Gilbert, then his cricket manager at Surrey, says: "He can be as funny as any man you have met but he also feels a need to maintain this British stiff upper lip. Sometimes that has not been a good thing. The pressure will seem unbearable but he will keep things close to his chest. He might be aching inside but you will never know it."

"In the middle of his family illnesses, when he was county

captain, he was still churning out the performances — Mr Surrey, I'm glad he's talking of expressing himself more because sometimes I don't think he does so enough."

Stewart has not captured the imagination in the same way as the Falstaffian Ian Botham or David Gower, who might have been created by Waugh or Wadehouse. It might all change this week, but essentially, like Graham Gooch whom he so admires, he is a member of the yeomanry.

"If you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail," said Gooch, who like Stewart often shouts, exhorts and marches. Like Gooch and Michael Atherton before him he captains more by example than by tactical insight but his example is more dynamic, more vital, more pivotal and in-your-face than it was with the other two.

A senior England player said yesterday: "We thought Stewy would be okay but he's

pared, you come out with all sorts of excuses."

He was talking to the players' dining area at The Oval. He is not difficult to get to, although he is too strict to be considered a soft touch. At The Oval over the weekend everyone wanted a piece of him before Headingley and everyone received a short, scheduled slot.

"I have changed my mobile number and now all appointments are made through Lord's. So far I can't say the job has been a hassle. Okay, I'll be there in two minutes," he adds, following a knock on the door and another request.

The extra media commitments have been the biggest difference. But I try to fix appointments on playing days so days off mean exactly that. As for the captaincy, I think it helped that I had played a lot of Test cricket. And I had been vice-captain to Atherton, so I had a pretty good idea what the job would be like."

Stewart will be 36 in April but the good news for Surrey and England is that he has the hunger of the under-achiever. "I've had a good career but in medal terms it has been disappointing. We didn't win anything at Surrey until the past couple of seasons and this is the first time I can remember going into the final Test of a full series with a chance to win."

"I have signed a five-year contract with Surrey that will keep me here until I'm 39 or 40 and it would be nice if my England career ran alongside it. I want to play as long as possible. Look at Goochie, he was playing for England at 41 and had probably his best years between 35 and 39."

GOOCH, however, did not keep wicket. And where he brooded, pondered and ambled, Stewart shouts, exhorts and marches. Like Gooch and Michael Atherton before him he captains more by example than by tactical insight but his example is more dynamic, more vital, more pivotal and in-your-face than it was with the other two.

A senior England player said yesterday: "We thought Stewy would be okay but he's

been a bit better than that. It's been a pleasant surprise. With Atherton's body language told you what he was thinking. Stewy tells you direct."

When Stewart was appointed in May Atherton said: "Graham Thorpe has already started a spread index on the number of clichés the captain will utter and how many times he will begin a sentence with 'to be fair' or, for emphasis, 'to be honest'. Don't believe all that nonsense I used to trot out about the need for a balanced side. We didn't want

to see Alec's knees-up, showpony running style and we thought by giving him the gloves we might occasionally see him with grass stains on his whites."

Stewart himself says: "I was captain before, here at Surrey I think, this time, I'm more open with the players. I'm open about seeking advice and I hope they feel they can come to me at any time and give it. I bounce ideas off people and like them to come to me to suggest things."

"I've played under six or seven captains and I think I've borrowed things from the likes of Atherton, Goochie and Adam Hogg. But one of the very best I played under was Tony Mann, who played for Western Australia and was

my skipper when I was in grade cricket for Midland-Guildford in Perth."

Another "Western" Australian, the Worcestershire captain Tom Moody, feels Stewart's experience in Perth was crucial to his development. "Playing there did him the world of good. It strengthened him as a

batman and hardened him up as a cricketer."

Stewart himself says: "The Australians have learned how to win and in tight situations they do it more often than they lose. We still have some progress to make in those 50-50 matches. It is annoying when people say our cricket is not tough enough and yet, when we show some emotion, the same people say we're out of order and we must be whiter than white. You need the killer instinct in professional sport."

He says the 1-1 scoreline in the current series is a fair reflection of the summer. No neutral would agree with that. South Africa have been marginally the better side. Stewart adds: "It would be nice if we could pull it off because we've copped a bit of flak in the past. Losing at Lord's did not help but we came back well to secure a draw at Old Trafford and got better and better as the Trent Bridge Test went on."

Stewart the cricketer is perhaps too 3-D as captain, keeper and key batsman. There is always a whiff of compromise in the two-in-one bargain offer about the wicketkeeper-batsman. But Stewart is the best batsman in the land and possibly the best keeper. He would really prefer to open the batting with Atherton, with someone else taking the gloves. Even batting at four he looks better coming in at the fall of two quick wickets, when the fast men are still on and the hard ball goes more sweetly to the boundary.

As usual, however, the team will come first and no one doubts action man's fitness to continue as he is. There was a delicious moment in Surrey's recent match against Middlesex when he was not keeping wicket but raced past Adam Hogg, eight years his junior, to field the ball. "Look at the pace," he shouted. Hamleys do not stock that.



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Way back when
Frank Keating
on a pledge by four Jamaicans at the Olympics in 1948 happily fulfilled in 1952

Front loper... Arthur Wint shows his 10ft stride in the 1948 Olympics at Wembley, where he won the 400m

HALF a century ago the 14th modern Olympic Games were held in London in the first two weeks of August. Such names as Fanny Blankers-Koen, Emil Zatopek and Bob Mathias endure for posterity from events between the 100 metres final on July 31 — the American Harrison Dillard winning when a photo-finish picture was used for the first time — and football's final on August 13 (won by Sweden 2-0) when Yugoslavia's Boris Stankovic became the first footballer sent off at Wembley.

Britain was still recovering from the war. Food and

clothes were rationed and London was still speckled with bomb craters. Yet 59 countries (not Germany, Japan or Italy) sent 4,500 competitors. Britain's first Labour government spent £600,000 to stage the Games and its enterprise was rewarded with a surplus of around £15,000. Don Bradman's Australian cricketers were also touring and, although British sport was at a low ebb, the national feeling was of regeneration, hope and good fellowship.

"Temporary" buildings, left around Wembley from the Empire Exhibition of a quarter of a century before,

were adapted as quarters for the media and most days Wembley had a sell-out crowd of 80,000. Athletes were housed in north London school buildings or former RAF Nissen huts at Uxbridge or Richmond Park.

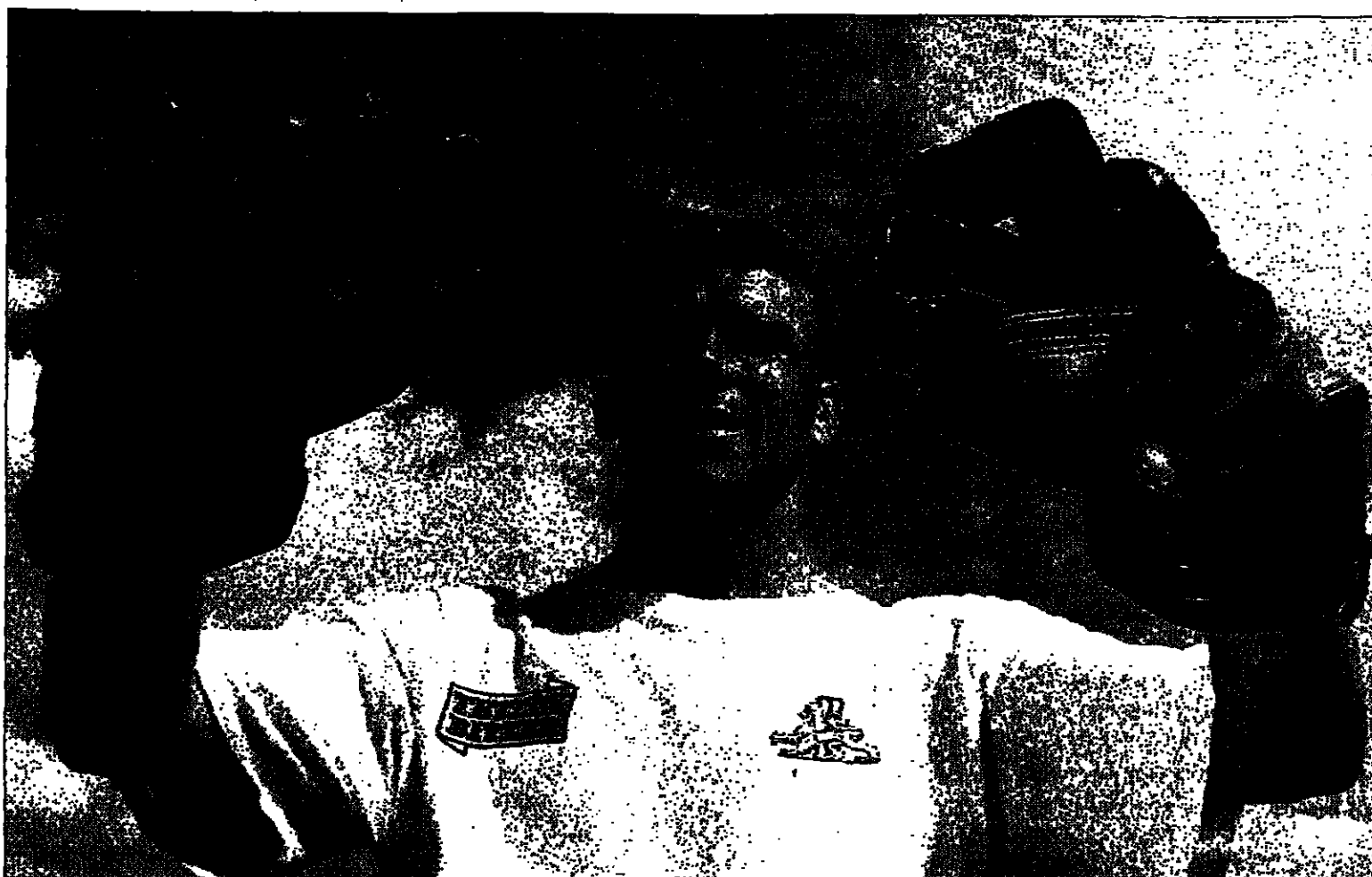
The American team was quartered at Deodar and in Neil Drummond's terrific history, *The Fastest Men on Earth* (Collins Willow, 1998), Dillard recalls: "We had everything: good training, a laundry, a bank, even a motion picture theatre. Our food was flown in from the States, even the meat, vegetables and milk, because of the rationing... The British

were very friendly. I think they were glad to have something to celebrate after the years of bombing, and we had an excellent time sight-seeing."

If the 1924 Games in Paris are famed for the "Flying Finn" Paavo Nurmi and the Berlin Games 12 years later for another quadruple gold medalist, the American Jesse Owens, then London in 1948 remains imperishable for the running of the 30-year-old Dutch housewife Blankers-Koen, who took home four gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 80m hurdles and 4x100m relay.

There was another funny-

news athlete for the pantheon at these Games, one with whom war-wrecked Britain sensed an even more buoyant affinity. In 1948 the first Jamaican immigrants crossed the Atlantic on the steamer *Windrush*. One islander was already here, hopeful he might give his compatriots something to cheer. Arthur Wint, sturdily bespectacled and standing 6ft 4in with a 10ft stride, had been enjoying his running with Polytechnic Harriers at Chislewick. Wint had joined the RAF towards the end of the war and was now studying medicine at London University. He was



Pitch it high and bend the knees for a start in barefoot curling

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

SOME sports are never off our television screens or back pages for a short period of the year, then abruptly disappear from national consciousness as their big event is over. Tennis, for instance, has the lifespan of a duckling crossing the M25. Once Wimbledon is finished it ceases to exist, leaving the British game with a large surplus of people in blazers, minor royalty, bottles of lemon barley water and players' girlfriends wearing sunglasses on their foreheads. As with other sports so fatally unappealing that they never get on telly at all, one way of finding a use for these remnants is to go round the country putting on taster sessions or fun days. In the real, professional world sport is anything but fun and these occasions are not much different. Nevertheless, handouts like paper baseball caps and dog-eared posters are usually enough to attract people through the gates, even if what is being promoted is some esoteric sport such as barefoot curling.

Unfortunately the kind of people they attract are so fat and uncoordinated they are incapable of doing anything more taxing than waddle about picking up free hats and posters, otherwise they would be in the British barefoot curling squad already. Even so, the fact that something over the other side of the ground is free is enough to

get most of them breaking into a run, far more so than phrases like Department of Health Fitness Guidelines. Another useful way of attracting new participants and keeping one's sport in the public eye is to put on an exhibition. This works well if the object is to raise awareness of something compact and on-the-spot like table tennis or topless darts. Less so if pushing something with vaguer boundaries of time and space, like Ironman Triathlon in which everyone has to fly off to Hawaii before getting started.

Similarly it is difficult to organise an exhibition of long-distance walking because all the volunteer participants will turn up outside the Scout Hut at 7am, tuck their trousers in their socks and set off for the Lake District, where they will be rescued by helicopter 48 hours later from the top of Scafell with heat exhaustion and some terrible cases of blisters.

Clubs trying to attract a younger generation of participants should be careful of their image. It is no use telling them the sport is vibrant, groovy and happening if its public face is a rheumy-eyed old twit in a smelly cardigan. What impresses people most is a friendly, youthful atmosphere, which can be achieved by getting kids from local clubs or leagues to show off their skill.

Obviously it is important to choose them carefully; the last thing needed is a bunch of teenage cyclists moving each other down in a steroid-induced rage or 13-year-old girls trying to prove a point by decking the 6ft-6in, 15-stone bloke who has just said women's boxing should be banned.

Talented youngsters are often attracted to sports that can be played in cool, fashionable kit, so they can earn even more money in endorsements. Some sports are put at a disadvantage by this. The luge will never attract the David Beckhams of tomorrow as long as its

participants have to dress up in giant condoms. Likewise cross-country swimmers tend to be limited to endorsing jellyfish repellent though, as they have to cover themselves in huge amounts of grease, there are always openings in the suit.

The talented kid is sport's equivalent of futures trading. Whatever he is good at, every sport from cricket to rugby to athletics will be after him. There may even be somebody trying to convince him that in 10 years' time fiddlywinks is going to be as big as football.

Football clubs, of course, will produce all sorts of inducements to those who let their two-year-old sign terms with them and there, which he can do either by finger painting or daubing the contract with half-chewed chicken nugget.

The wise parent will resist. Otherwise in six months he will have to leave home when the club need to balance their books by selling off their promising youngsters and flog him on for £1.5 million. By reception-class age he will be training with Ajax after a spell at Boca Juniors. After that it will be impossible to keep track of him except through the tabloid newspapers when at seven he gets engaged to his first Spice Girl.

NEXTREME cases the kid who was originally contracted is still being cradled round when he has qualified for a bursary and is waiting for an NHS bed so he can get his hip replacement done.

It is getting to the point now when 18-year-olds wanting to sign up for a career in golf or football are forced to talk in very high voices and stand with their knees bent as if trying to buy a half-fare train ticket. Otherwise they will be told they are too old and should take up something more in keeping with their age, like bridge or gardening.



Keepers as Test match captains



Jack Blackham
Australia
Tests as captain 8 (w3, 13, 22)
First 1885
Test batting average 15.68
Average as captain 22.00

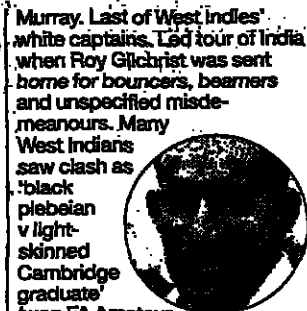
Played in first 17 Tests ever, 35 in all. Stood up to all but Spofforth, who initially refused to play with him, preferring Murdoch, who also captained once. Made long-stop obsolescent. Described as 'the prince of wicketkeepers' with 'dark eyes as keen as a hawk'; he was also a bank clerk. Gloomy and nervous as a captain.

Ronald Stanyforth
England
Tests as captain 4 (w2, 11, 21)
First 1927
Test batting average 2.80
Average as captain 2.60

Captain Stanyforth, a regular army officer (aboard ship, above right), was promoted to lead England in South Africa when G.R. Jackson dropped out. An odd choice to tour, let alone captain; he failed to get a Blue at Oxford and had played no county cricket. Later had three games for Yorkshire despite birth in Chelsea. Close ties with MCC. Wrote textbook on wicketkeeping.

Gerry Alexander
West Indies
Tests as captain 18 (w7, 14, 27)
First 1958
Test batting average 30.03
Average as captain 22.19

Christened Franz Copeland



Imtiaz Ahmed
Pakistan
Tests as captain 4 (2, 22)
First 1959
Test batting average 29.28
Average as captain 21.75

Played in Pakistan's first 39 Tests, 41 in all. First chosen as batsman, he took over behind stumps from Hanif Mohammad in fourth innings, keeping unflinchingly to variety of spinners and Fazal's leg-cutters. At 208 v NZ in 1955, then a Test record for a keeper. Shy and courteous, he became chairman of selectors and had a book of poems published.

Barry Jarman
Tests as captain 1 (21)
First 1968
Test batting average 14.81
Average as captain 7.00

Emerging from shadow of Wally Grout to play 19 Tests. Vice-captain on third tour to England. Stood in for Bill Lawry at Headingley, when Tom Graveney led.

Wesim Bari
Pakistan
Tests as captain 6 (2, 24)
First 1977
Test batting average 15.88
Average as captain 6.42

England for the only time. Deryck Murray (WI, 1979) was another among the 17 wicket-keeper Test captains to stand in for one match when his captain, Clive Lloyd, was injured.



Lee Gernon
New Zealand
Tests as captain 12 (w1, 5, 25)
First 1995
Test batting average 21.22
Average as captain 21.22

Came from nowhere to lead his country on debut, continuing through five series. The second New Zealander to captain from behind the stumps, which ought to be the best position for seeing what the bowlers are up to but is commonly considered circuitous for captaincy. Ian Smith was the other, for one match. Three of these 18 have opened the batting in Tests when they were captain and keeper: Sherwell, Alexander and Imtiaz. Jeremy Alexander

behind the stumps, second only to Alexander and 'Joek' Cameron (christened Horace Brakenridge, who died of typhoid a few weeks after returning from the 1835 tour to England) — and Zimbabwe one, Andy Flower, who did eight Tests before conceding that batting and keeping was quite enough.

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Stewart's Test batting averages

Test	innings	runs	average
1	14	10	568
2	14	10	568
3	14	10	568
4	14	10	568
5	14	10	568
6	14	10	568
7	14	10	568
8	14	10	568
9	14	10	568
10	14	10	568
11	14	10	568
12	14	10	568
13	14	10	568
14	14	10	568
15	14	10	568
16	14	10	568
17	14	10	568
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91	14	10	568
92	14	10	568
93	14	10	568
94	14	10	568
95	14	10	568
96	14	10	568
97	14	10	568
98	14	10	568
99	14	10	568
100	14	10	568

Stewart's Test batting averages

off that long unassailable world record. That evening in the Olympic village they toasted their London pledge four years earlier with a bottle of malt whisky that Wint had brought over for the express purpose. They had only tooth-mugs to drink from. Years later Wint revealed that there was just a single measure left when there was a determined knock on the locked door. It was the Duke of Edinburgh. Wint happily poured him the final draught and they drank again to an Edinburgh Nissen — but resolution. August can be a romantic month.

to become a surgeon and, from 1974 to 1978, Jamaican High Commissioner to Britain. That 1948 midsummer the 29-year-old embraced on the quayside at Plymouth three younger athletes from his homeland. Each in their early twenties, George Rhoden, Leslie Laing and Herb McKenley were to make up, with the near-veteran Wint, what many track scholars regard as history's finest 4x400m relay team. To Wembley's acclamation Wint ravishingly won the gold medal in the 400m and the silver in the 800 behind the dashing

American Mal Whitfield. McKenley, already 400m world record holder, had been second to Wint, as well as running fourth in the 200m, two places ahead of Laing. The 21-year-old Rhoden was a 400m rookie of dazzling potential. The four of them would surely give the crack United States quartet a run for their dollars. And that is exactly what they were doing until Wint, on the third leg and leading the new 400m hurdles champion Roy Cochran, pulled up with cramp. The US anchor man Whitfield cruised home in the final leg.

The morning after, in their Duxbury hut, Wint said goodbye to his three young compatriots as they left for home but only having insisted they all pledge to line up again in four years' time at Helsinki and not only beat the Americans but break an enduring world record of 3min 4.3sec which had stood since 1932. Four years on the 200m specialist Laing now had the power to 'hold' the second leg to perfection; Rhoden had grown up not only to take the 400m world record from his friend McKenley but to beat him for gold at that distance in Helsinki;

McKenley, now 30, had freshly added to his 1948 tally of silver medals with second place in both the 100m and 400m; and the 32-year-old Wint, having run the first crucial leg, had time to rip off his green-and-gold Jamaican vest for Rhoden to put it on — once on the track they realised they could muster only three between them — and run a blazing last leg which this time demolished the great Whitfield. So Wint became the oldest track athlete in history to win an Olympic gold medal. In doing so the four of them sliced an astonishing 4.3sec

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Evans above the clenched fist but still running on high

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

At the 1968 Olympics in Mexico the politics outweighed the athletics, which took some doing. Jim Hines in the 100 metres — the first all-black Olympic final — Tommie Smith in the 200m and Lee Evans in the 400m all broke world records and the American 4x400 squad might still hold one if their anchor man Evans had not spent so much time looking over his shoulder for the distant

Karyans. Those images, if not that of Bob Beamon's long jump that extended the record by almost 22 inches, have faded in the memory for when Smith and Tommie Smith stood on the rostrum, barefoot, they each raised a clenched black-gloved fist to the sky. Not since Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old from Montgomery, Alabama, refused to give up her seat on a bus in 1955 and a simple gesture carried such weight.

Parks was charged with "violation of the city ordinance" which triggered the Alabama protests. Smith and Carlos were expelled from the Games by the enraged United States Olympic Committee. Outside America the implications were digested less emotionally.

The Thursday evening before they left the Olympic Village Carlos went to the room of Evans, who had contemplated withdrawing from the 400m. Carlos told him he should run and Evans did, establishing a world record that would last until Butch Reynolds broke it in Zurich almost 20 years later. "So you're the guy who made this record so hard," said Reynolds to Evans when they met later.

Evans made his own protest in the thin air of Mexico City. When the relay team, of Vince Matthews, Ron Freeman, Larry James and Evans, stood atop the podium, having set a world record that would last 24 years, they each raised a clenched fist, too. The reaction this time was more subdued.

Smith and Carlos were destined to struggle for years when they returned to a generally unsympathetic America. Evans had fewer problems, teaching and coaching at San Jose University, but



Baton charge... Lee Evans in Mexico City, 1968. ALLSPORT

he was not to stay long in America. "I first thought about coaching in Africa during the Olympic Games. I knew it would be wonderful to go back to my roots," he recalls.

Evans's life since has been an extraordinary journey. For seven years, from 1974, the double Olympic champion coached the Nigerian sprinters in Lagos. "I knew they had talent; I just wanted to help them," he says. He returned to the US, but for only 18 months, before a second tour in Africa, this time as a staff member for the US Information Service, a job which entailed running coaching clinics in 16 African countries over a two-year period.

In 1986 he moved to Cameroon for a two-year spell as Fulbright professor of coaching in the capital, Yaounde. There followed a two-year post in Washington, as director of coaching for the Special Olympics, before he accepted a four-year job in charge of the Qatar Olympic sprint team. From there Evans took a short ride to Saudi Arabia, for a three-year term tending to their sprinters. Last year, after a 35-year journey that had embraced a continent and more, Evans and family — his wife and three children travel with him — settled in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

In the mountains, more than 7,000ft above sea level, Evans has established the Indian Ocean Athletic Training Centre and has applied to the International Amateur Athletic Federation for funding. He laughs when asked if

he is still searching for his roots; 25 years is a long while to look. He is comfortable in Africa but returns to California, where it all began about once a year. This Thursday, however, the 51-year-old will fly in to Portland, Oregon, to take part in the World Masters Games, where he is entered for the 400m and 800m.

Nightfall in Madagascar must seem a lifetime away from Mexico but Evans makes the leap. "I knew when I did it [the 400m record] it would be hard to beat but the relay record I knew would last a long time. When I go back, you know, it gets me a lot of respect among the young 400m men."

In Atlanta in 1996 he met Roger Black. "We talked, we had a picture taken together," he has heard, too, about Mark Richardson and Iwan Thomas but is bewildered to learn that Black is not going to the European Championships. "What time did he run in the trials?" he asks. At the answer, 44.71, Evans hums like the wires. He does not mention that it is almost a second slower than he ran 30 years ago and that Thomas's British record, set last summer, would still have left him four yards short of Evans.

Evans is not concerned with history now but with the riddle of Britain's most successful 400m runner since Eric Liddell. "But he's the captain; he's on the relay, right?" he inquires. No, he is told, Black has quit. And on a mountain on an island off the east coast of Africa one of the greatest 400m runners in history takes a moment to digest the fact.

Athletics

Pratt fall pales beside gold

Duncan Mackay

ANOTHER two gold medals for Great Britain as the World Junior Championships came to an end in Annecy last night showed that athletics in this country can approach the millennium with confidence.

The sport's problems of the track seemed a million miles away as Julie Pratt won the 100 metres hurdles and David Parker the javelin to take Britain's tally to four gold medals after Christian Malcolm had completed the men's sprint double on Saturday.

The haul surpassed Britain's previous best performance at these championships 12 years ago. Victory for Pratt was particularly sweet because 12 months ago she had fallen when leading in the European Junior Championships and suffered severe friction burns. Yesterday she defied the rain sweeping in off the Alps and four false starts to beat the hot favourite, China's Hong Wei Sun, in a photo-finish. Both runners were credited with the same time of 13.15 seconds.

It was one of Britain's most unexpected gold medals in championship history at any level. Sun had a personal best of 12.92 compared with Pratt's 13.62. "When I cleared the last hurdle I just closed my eyes and ran. I didn't know I had won until I heard the announcement," said Pratt, who is out of the same Essex Ladies stable as Sally Gunnell.

Parker's triumph owed almost as much to the team's physiotherapists as his own efforts. Two weeks ago he could not even walk because he tore a ligament behind his right knee. He aggravated the injury in qualifying on Friday when a French official walked across his path as he was preparing to throw.

The 19-year-old Scarborough schoolboy spent much of the next 48 hours on the treatment table, trying to get ready for the final. But it proved to be worth it as he threw 72.85 metres with his first effort and was never beaten. "It was important to get a good throw early to put the others under pressure," Parker said. "I was biting my nails all through the last round."

Parker thus pipped his training partner Steve Bakley to the honour of becoming the first British man to win a javelin title at a global championships.

On Saturday Malcolm looked awesome when he added the 200m title to the 100m gold medal he had won three days earlier. The 19-year-old Welshman swept to a five-metre victory in a championship record 20.44, which took 0.10sec off Ade Mafe's UK junior record that had stood for 13 years.



Malcolm... sprint double



Last lap... Black acknowledges a standing ovation in the British Grand Prix

JOHN GILES

Mellow Black crosses the finishing line in style

Duncan Mackay in Sheffield finds Britain's retiring captain has no complaints after coming home third in his final 400m race

ROGER BLACK did not win his last race but he bowed out of athletics at the Don Valley stadium last night in a style befitting someone who gloriously bestrode British athletics for 13 years.

The bitterness of the past few days, when the British team captain raged at his non-selection for the individual 400 metres at the European Championships in Budapest, was forgotten as Black received standing ovations before and after finishing third behind the winner Mark Richardson in 46.05 seconds.

For 350 metres Black dreamed of winning as he battled shoulder-to-shoulder with Richardson and Iwan Thomas. But this was no exhibition race and Richardson found an extra gear to defeat his training partner.

So hasty was Black's decision to retire that the organisers did not even include a tribute to him in the programme. Instead there was an article about his chances of

winning the European Championships for an unprecedented third time. By then he will have started his new television career with the BBC.

The 32-year-old will be working at Zurich's Weltklasse Grand Prix on August 12. Budapest a week later and the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur from September 11-21. "It's a great challenge," said Black. "Once you've been in sport you don't ever want to leave it."

Since Thursday's announcement acrimony has mellowed into a realisation that one controversy should not overshadow a career with many more highs than lows. "I am not leaving a bitter man," he said. "By winning the Olympic silver medal in 1996 I know I fulfilled my potential. I've had my day; who am I to complain?"

After so many near misses Paula Radcliffe's day may also be arriving. The Bedford runner, who has had her head in the mountains for more than a month of altitude

training, came down to earth with a bang, producing the performance of the meeting to win the 3,000m in 8min 38.84sec, taking nearly five seconds off Mary Slaney's seven-year-old stadium record.

In the process the 24-year-old destroyed an out-of-sorts Sonia O'Sullivan. It was a huge psychological victory for Radcliffe, outkicked so often by the Irish woman in major races, as the pair could clash again in the European Championships 10,000m.

Jonathan Edwards will hope his performance last night was a one-off. The triple jumper struggled to find any kind of rhythm and was facing a rare defeat until the final round, when he leapt 17.14 metres to move from fourth to first. But he was clearly not happy; as soon as the last jump had been completed Edwards rushed down the tunnel, barely acknowledging the crowd's applause, to receive treatment on an ankle injury.

"The most redeeming factor today was that I won," said the world record holder. "I am at a loss to explain why I jumped so badly — even my winning jump was terrible."

Collin Jackson suffered an even more disappointing night, overwhelmed by the Americans in the 110m hurdles. The Welshman finished ahead of Mark Crear, this year's world No. 1, but had to give way to Reggie Torian and the Olympic champion Allen Johnson. Jackson was shoulder-to-shoulder at half way but Torian found another gear to triumph in 13.15sec. Jackson clocked 13.24.

The Nivea Sprint Challenge For Men, the three-race series designed to find a 100m successor to Linford Christie, has been made all but redundant by the recent performance of Darren Campbell and Christian Malcolm, neither of whom has competed in the event.

Dwain Chambers won the final in 10.24sec but the 20-year-old was beaten by Jo Jo Robertson by two and one while Radcliffe, who has announced her intention to turn professional, was always too good for the 49-year-old cup veteran Carol Semple-Thompson and she won by three and two.

Nevertheless the holders still had a daunting deficit to overcome after falling 5/6-3/4 behind to the United States at the halfway stage in Minneapolis. It meant that to retain the trophy they needed to collect 5/6 of the nine points at stake.

There was an outstanding performance by Rebecca Hudson, at 19 the youngest member of the British side, who secured a half against Janus Chingriporn who led the US Open before losing the play-off. But Hudson felt it was a missed opportunity; she was four up after six holes and only some brilliant putting by the American prevented her winning that game.

There was huge disappointment for Alison Ross, the heroine of the 1994 exp triumph at Killarney. She lost both her matches on the opening day.

Britain's Laura Davies looked to have blown her chance of victory at the Du Maurier Classic in Canada, the season's final major. A third-round two-under-par

Golf

Parnevik holds off expectant Clarke

Gordon Richardson in Stockholm

THE expectant father Darren Clarke delivered three birdies in the home straight in yesterday's Scandinavian Masters here at Kungsängen but they failed to prevent Jesper Parnevik from galloping to victory.

Despite being preoccupied by thoughts of his wife Heather, who had entered hospital to give birth to their first child, the Ulsterman produced a bold effort that would have put the squeeze on most opponents.

He twice sank 25-footers for three but Parnevik's instant reply came with a 25-footer for a two at the 12th before cooing in a 10-footer to match Clarke's second successive birdie at the 15th.

When the powerful Ulsterman's tee-shot at the short 16th drifted close to a water hazard and cost him four it was case closed. Parnevik could afford the luxury of a bogey five after a bunkered approach to the last, finally winning by three strokes with a 70 for an 11-under-par 273.

It was Clarke's second successive second place, following last week's Dutch Open, and a pair of 288,880 cheques have lifted him above Colin Montgomerie (242,057) into second place in the European money list with £472,223, behind Lee Westwood (£250,285).

Clarke is hoping it will be a case of third time lucky in the US PGA Championship in Seattle next week although he insists he will not cross the Atlantic if any complications develop over the birth, declaring: "My wife and baby are far more important than golf."

Before boarding a flight home to be by his wife's side Clarke admitted that Parnevik, a team-mate in last year's Ryder Cup-winning squad in Spain, fully deserved his second victory in four years in this event.

"I never got any momentum going after dropping a shot at the 2nd and he played very solid golf. I tried to get back into it with those birdies coming home and after going nine under I expected to be



Parnevik... weary way

only two behind, but he knocked his putt straight in for a birdie at 15.

"I've been second in Europe three times this year and the feeling is of disappointment rather than satisfaction; golf is all about winning."

"But I've played well and I'm up to second in the order of merit with a chance to finish No. 1 for the first time."

In truth it was a comfortable day for Parnevik, whose lead was never less than the two-stroke advantage he held overnight.

He admitted, however, that the pressure of winning in front of a home crowd which numbered 29,000 yesterday was not easy to handle.

"They want you to win and they expect you to win," he explained. "I was very tired after my practice round and fell asleep again after two alarm calls on Thursday, then dropped three quick shots to par. I thought I'd be somewhere else at the weekend."

"The one negative thing about the victory is that I've lost confidence with the putter. I had 37 putts today and it's something I must sort out before the US PGA."

Montgomerie, despite two closing 68s for a two-under 282 and joint 16th place, also takes putting worries with him to the United States on Friday. "I've called Dave Peck, who's about the best putting teacher in the business, to fly up to Seattle from Texas to give me a lesson," he explained.

Fairclough opens Solheim door with dogged victory

Elspeth Burnside in Trondheim

LANCASHIRE's Lora Fairclough achieved her season's goal with a European Tour victory — her first in three years — in the German Open here yesterday but refused to get worked up about the forthcoming Solheim Cup.

Fairclough was tipped as a star in the making when she made her debut in the 1994 Solheim Cup — her first of the United States — but her career went into reverse two years ago when she dropped out of the automatic selections on the final counting day.

Last night she moved to No. 8 in the rankings after closing with 74 for a 10-under-par 282 winning total in sultry conditions here near Hamburg.

Later this month Europe's top seven will be named for the side to take on the Americans at the 1999 Solheim Cup in the 110m hurdles. The Welshman finished ahead of Mark Crear, this year's world No. 1, but had to give way to Reggie Torian and the Olympic champion Allen Johnson. Jackson was shoulder-to-shoulder at half way but Torian found another gear to triumph in 13.15sec. Jackson clocked 13.24.

The Nivea Sprint Challenge For Men, the three-race series designed to find a 100m successor to Linford Christie, has been made all but redundant by the recent performance of Darren Campbell and Christian Malcolm, neither of whom has competed in the event.

Dwain Chambers won the final in 10.24sec but the 20-year-old was beaten by Jo Jo Robertson by two and one while Radcliffe, who has announced her intention to turn professional, was always too good for the 49-year-old cup veteran Carol Semple-Thompson and she won by three and two.

Nevertheless the holders still had a daunting deficit to overcome after falling 5/6-3/4 behind to the United States at the halfway stage in Minneapolis. It meant that to retain the trophy they needed to collect 5/6 of the nine points at stake.

There was an outstanding performance by Rebecca Hudson, at 19 the youngest member of the British side, who secured a half against Janus Chingriporn who led the US Open before losing the play-off. But Hudson felt it was a missed opportunity; she was four up after six holes and only some brilliant putting by the American prevented her winning that game.

There was huge disappointment for Alison Ross, the heroine of the 1994 exp triumph at Killarney. She lost both her matches on the opening day.

Britain's Laura Davies looked to have blown her chance of victory at the Du Maurier Classic in Canada, the season's final major. A third-round two-under-par

"That was my aim at the start of the year. The Solheim can just take care of itself."

Cheshire's Joanne Morley, whose only Tour win came in the 1996 German Open over this course, again showed her liking for the rolling parkland layout. Morley packed five birdies into the first 14 holes and, at that stage, had closed to one behind Fairclough.

But while the winner-to-be was holling from eight feet for a birdie at the 14th, Morley was bunkering her tee-shot on the 15th, which might have spoiled her chances of a two-shot swing that virtually assured Fairclough of the £15,000 top prize.

Morley, whose three-under-par 70 was the last day's joint best, eventually had to settle for a share of second with France's Stephanie Dhallongville and, like Fairclough, she is playing down her chances of Solheim selection. A member of the side that was defeated at St Pierre two years ago, Morley is now at No. 8 in the rankings. "What will be will be," she said. "All I can do is play the best that I can over the next three weeks."

On Saturday Trish Johnson had upset the tournament director Michael Petch by appearing on the tee in an Arsenal shirt — she had committed the same offence last

year and had been fined. She will suffer a similar fate after a meeting of the Tour committee later this week.

Ironically yesterday she shared breakfast in her hotel with Kevin Keegan, who won the European player of the year award here in Hamburg, and his wife. He mischievously presented her with a Hamburg shirt but she refrained from putting it on for the final round.

In fact the 32-year-old was attired in a plain white polo shirt, which might have appeased Petch but did nothing for the photographers who were hoping to see a High-bury number.

Joint second at the start of the final round, Johnson's less spectacular attire was reflected in her play. With two seconds and a third in her three other European event this year, she slipped to joint sixth with a 76 that contained only one birdie — a spectacular lob wedge into the hole at the 18th.

Opinion was mixed regarding Johnson's misdemeanour. Fairclough, another football fan, joked: "It might have been okay if it had been Bolton Wanderers," before adding more seriously: "Football shirts are for football and golf shirts are for golf."

Morgan turns up the revs

GREAT Britain and Ireland were thrown by a late-night lifeline by the English champion Elaine Radcliffe and Wales's Becky Morgan, who won their matches and the bottom of the order to give them a glimmer of hope of retaining the Curtis Cup.

Morgan actually recovered from being two down to beat Jo Jo Robertson by two and one while Radcliffe, who has announced her intention to turn professional, was always too good for the 49-year-old cup veteran Carol Semple-Thompson and she won by three and two.

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Britain's Laura Davies looked to have blown her chance of victory at the Du Maurier Classic in Canada, the season's final major. A third-round two-under-par

70 left Davies eight shots adrift of the leader Brandie Burton, who went three clear after a 66 put her on 188 and 18 under.

Sweden's Annika Sorenstam and the American Meg Mallon both shot 67 to head the chasing pack while Betsy King with a 70 and Pat Hurst with a 71 were two shots further back.

Davies was one of six women tied for ninth on 206 after she failed to build on opening rounds of 69 and 67. The next best among the Britons was Lisa Hackney, who was eight under after a 71.

Scotland's Mhairi McKay made some progress with a 69 for 210, along with Catriona Matthews, who slipped to a 74 after two earlier rounds of 68. The Koreans at the Rink seeking her third major of the year, was also on six-under after a disappointing 71.

Bob Bates recorded three straight birdies on the back nine to tie the former champion Nick Price for the lead on 202 after three rounds of the St Jude Classic in Memphis, Tennessee. John Daly lost his temper after driving into the lake at the 18th to finish with a 74, walked off and was disqualified.

Motorcycling

Super Fogarty races on

THE Australian Troy Corser stretched his lead in the Superbike World Championship at Brands Hatch yesterday with victory in the second of the day's two races, beating the local hero Carl Fogarty into second place.

Corser overcame early tyre problems to dominate the race from start to finish as around 82,000 bike fans — the biggest crowd ever at a bike race in mainland Britain — saw Fogarty joined by his fellow Briton James Whitham, who set a new lap record, on the podium.

Corser now has 275.5 points in the championship with the Honda-rider New Zealander Aaron Slight second with 245, with three rounds and six races remaining.

The Texan Colin Edwards held off Slight for victory in

the first race as tyre problems for the Ducatis left Fogarty in fourth place and Corser a distant seventh.

The Ducati mechanics solved the problems between the races and Corser never looked in trouble over the 25 laps of the second race as he led from the start.

"In the first race the tyres just weren't up to it," Corser said. "I thought it best just to finish and get some points. It's a shame I lost so many points [to Slight] in the first race but I think I have just made them up again."

While Corser stayed on track for a second superbike world title after winning in 1996, Fogarty denied reports that he was going to retire at the end of the season. "I can't possibly retire now," he said on the circuit commentary system after

throwing his boots, gloves and helmet into the crowd in the grandstands opposite the pits.

"I was hoping to win and then I could retire," he added. "While the second race was fairly professional for Corser, the first was a real battle, with Edwards being pushed by his team-mate Slight all the way to the flag."

"I wasn't easy. I had Aaron to worry about all the time. The whole race was flat out," said Edwards, whose two other race wins this season came at Monza in Italy in May.

"I think if I had tried something special on that last lap, I might have taken us both out," said Slight, who crashed heavily in the last round at Laguna Seca. Scott Russell of the United States was third on a Yamaha.

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

Rickard Rydell increased his lead in the British Touring Car Championship at Thruxton yesterday despite being beaten by his two main rivals, Anthony Reid once and Alain Menu twice.

The Swede finished third in both races and has now opened up a daunting 46-point lead over Renault's Menu, the reigning champion, who moved into second place, with only eight races remaining.

Two spectators, one a seven-year-old child, died in a rally in Madeira on Saturday after being hit by a car driven by the Portuguese champion Adriano Lopes at a high-speed corner.

Snooker

Mike Hallett and Tony Knowles, two of the game's leading lights in the 1980s, reached the third round of the European Open qualifying competition in Plymouth. Hallett, once fifth but now

128th in the world rankings, beat Glasgow's David McLellan 5-3, while Knowles, a former world No. 2, eased past the Australian Neil Robertson 5-1.

Basketball

The Nigerian Julius Nwosu, a centre who plays for the Turkish club Galatasaray, has been banned for two months after testing positive for ephedrine while playing for Nigeria at the world championship.

Swimming

South Africa's Penny Heyns set a world record of 30.95sec in the 50 metres breaststroke at the Goodwill Games in New York in the first half of a 100m race.

Cycling

The former British champion Collin Sturgess won the Tour of the Cotswolds in Gloucester Park to spearhead a Brits Racing Team one-two. Sturgess clocked 4hr 55min 56sec for the gruelling 119-mile course to finish ahead of his team-mate Chris Newent.

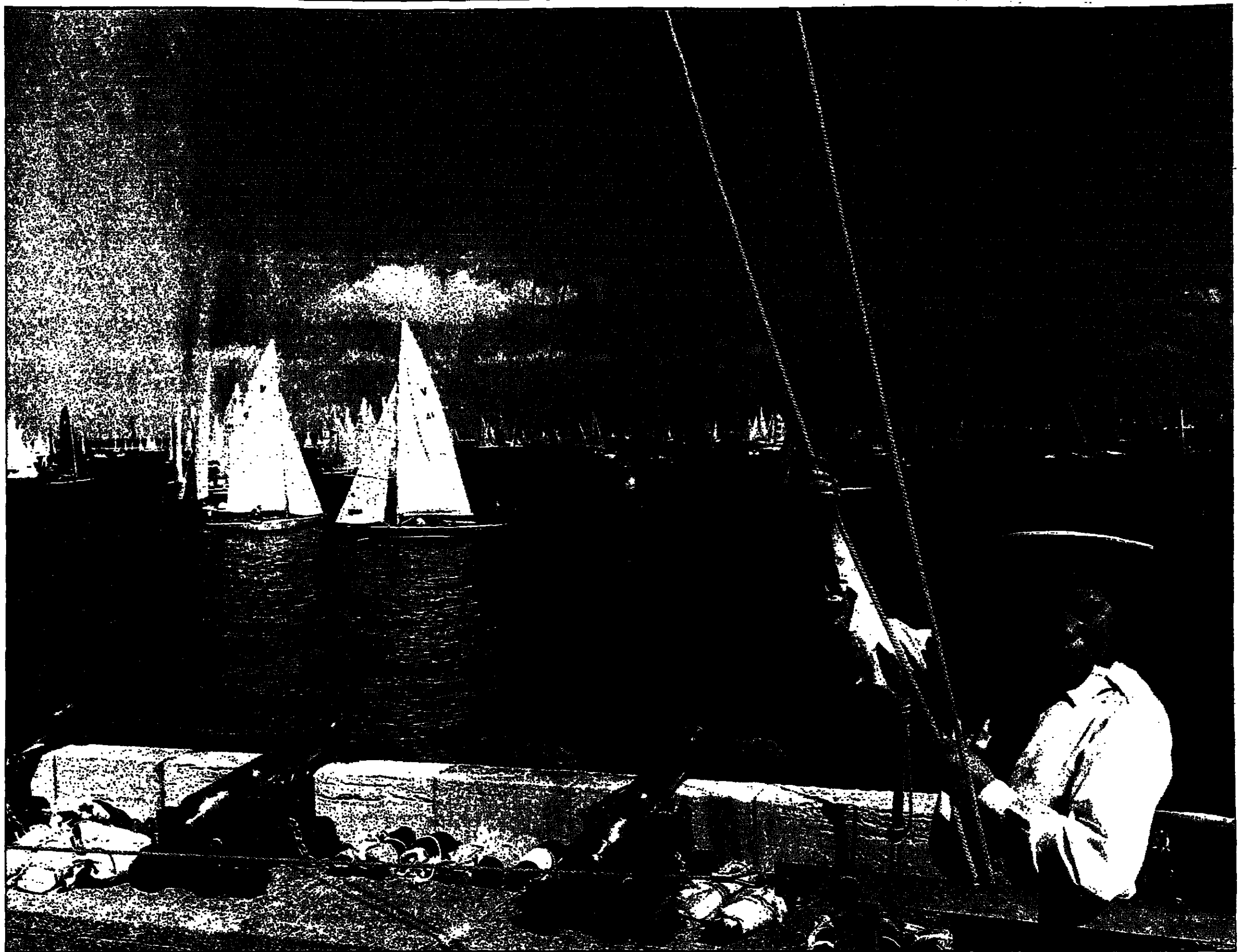
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Ready, steady, don't go... a navy cadet gets ready to hoist a flag at the Royal Squadron starting line at Cowes, where a lack of wind has led to chaos in The Solent

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Somnolent Solent causes chaos as Cowes Week runs out of puff

Bob Fisher at Cowes

AEOLUS, the Greek bloke in charge of the wind, has chosen this weekend — the beginning of Cowes Week — to go on

his holidays. The result has been dribbles of wind from every conceivable direction, leaving sailors baffled and the organisers with a near-impossible task.

Moderate chaos would be an adequate description for

the finish of four classes, with a total of more than 100 boats crossing a line as many yards long. It was as if the entire cast of a French farce had entered the bedroom at the same time. There simply was not

sufficient room for all the boats.

It was as well the wind was light, or non-existent, when the Sigma 33s and 38s, together with Classes 3 and 4, finished in a log-jam at the Elephant buoy, or the

damage would have been appalling.

Class 1 is where the action is meant to be but, as these boats were among the first to start, their early stages have been in drifting conditions. On the first day Glynn

Williams's 41ft Wolf was a comfortable winner but yesterday Wolf had to give best to Peter Harrison's Farr-designed 50-footer Russe Noir. Tony de Mulder's Farr 40, Victric V, has been second on both occasions.

Class 3 has been badly affected and the matter of whether they finished Saturday's race is still to be resolved. Fabrice Tropes, with Major Tom, won the second race from Jonty Layfield's Steeper.

Mike Slade's 80ft Bombay Gin has the running of the Maxi class very much to itself. With only two competitors, and John Caulcutt's Maxima retiring on both days, Slade and his crew are sailing lonely races.

Test ticket sales rocket

Mike Selvey reports on renewed enthusiasm as England name an unchanged squad for the series decider at Headingley

ENGLAND's supporters were obviously as desperate for success as their team. They turned up in their thousands on the last day at Trent Bridge to watch England level the series with South Africa and now ticket sales for the decider at Headingley, which starts on Thursday, have passed the £1 million mark.

Yesterday, as England named an unchanged squad for the game, the Yorkshire secretary David Ryder, said: "We have already sold over £200,000 worth of tickets in the last week alone and that has never been done here before."

"Now that the team has been announced and the pre-match publicity is beginning in earnest, we believe the sales will accelerate even more. It was all a very different story a week ago."

Though no changes had been expected to the squad, three players would have been

tened to the team announcement with more than a hint of trepidation. Neither Dominic Cork, Graeme Hick nor Ian Salisbury had a memorable game at Trent Bridge: Cork's lethargic bowling in the first innings tended to reinforce the case for the prosecution against Alec Stewart after he had put the opposition in to bat; Hick, given the opportunity to re-establish himself in Test cricket away from the firing line at the top of the order, failed the only time he

went to the crease; and claims of the leg-spinner Salisbury's newly developed accuracy and confidence proved sadly premature as Hansie Cronje stripped his bowling naked.

By the time the final XI is announced on Thursday morning it may well have been decided that Headingley's relatively recently laid surface remains sufficiently capricious for a specialist spinner to be superfluous. That would leave Salisbury the one-off Test against Sri

Lanka later this month as his proving ground for a place on the winter tour to Australia.

However, should Stewart's strategy involve batting first and Salisbury's bowling — more effective on a wearing pitch in the fourth innings — be deemed necessary, then a seamer has to go. Under the circumstances, with the selectors keen by all accounts to get Alan Mullally into the side with his left-arm pace bowling, it could be Cork who is omitted and left to fight for his Test future.

Neither the selectors nor, apparently, the captain were enamoured with Cork's first-innings effort. There were

reports of harsh dressing-room words and criticism of his decision not to play in Derbyshire's match against Sri Lanka between the third and fourth Tests, which meant that his only bowling in almost a fortnight was in one knock-out tie and one Sunday League match.

In the continuing absence through injury of Graham Thorpe, few batsmen — John Crawley perhaps, himself trying to find a route back into the Test side, or possibly Mal Loye — have offered any challenge to Hick who, in his first Test for two years, made just half-a-dozen runs before bottom edging on to his stumps.

It was not an auspicious return but neither was it conclusive regarding his technique and temperament and he did hang on to a couple of stupendous slip catches. In the latter part of his Test career he has averaged well over 40 with the bat, good going by any standard. To bring him back, yet again, for one game only before dropping him would be harsh.

Alec Stewart profile, page 18

Test averages

Player	M	I	No	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
A J Stewart	79	122	10	5598	190	42.32	11	28
M A Atherton	83	153	6	5916	185	40.25	12	37
C Ince	33	59	5	1522	87	35.74	7	12
G A Hick	47	81	6	2676	178	35.70	4	16
M A Blythe	12	23	1	564	87	25.63	0	4
M R Samuels	27	47	3	1654	154	26.55	0	4
D G Cork	23	34	4	547	89	18.23	0	2
I D K Salisbury	10	18	2	278	50	17.37	0	1
A Flintoff	1	1	0	17	17.00	0	0	0
D Gough	24	34	5	393	55	15.75	0	2
A D Murray	9	12	4	79	24	9.87	0	0
A R C Fraser	42	58	11	343	29	7.00	0	0

Player	Ovrs	M	Runs	Wkts	Avg	5W	10W	Best
A R C Fraser	1070.4	411	4401	182	27.15	12	2	6-53
D Gough	837	189	2699	92	28.91	5	0	6-48
D G Cork	368.5	173	2700	88	30.33	5	0	7-48
A D Murray	395.5	114	427	28	33.10	0	0	5-44
G A Hick	495.3	128	1247	22	56.98	0	0	4-12
I D K Salisbury	399.3	35	1220	18	67.77	0	0	4-16
A Flintoff	23	5	86	1	86.00	0	0	1-42
M R Samuels	98.1	13	284	3	94.66	0	0	1-20
M A Atherton	65	12	302	3	151.00	0	0	1-20
A D Murray	12	7	44	0	—	0	0	0-0
A J Stewart	3.2	0	13	0	—	0	0	0-0

Tour match: Essex v South Africans

All pumps to a lost cause as a crocodile waits

Robert Kitson at Chelmsford

WHEN the emergency services have to be summoned to salvage a few hours' cricket on a Sunday in August, it is an iron-minded South African tourist whose thoughts do not turn to beach or game reserve. It took an Essex fire crew all morning to pump away the floodwater from much of the outfield and, when play finally started at 2pm, a lifeless contest had all the appeal of a sodden carpet.

When the pressure rises at Headingley this week, though, only the unwary should expect South Africa to be slow to respond. The sight of Hansie Cronje leading his side straight back out once the last rites of this draw had been administered, erecting nets and putting in some serious practice, told its own story. The way the captain sees it, the loudest alarm bells in Leeds will be heard in the home dressing-room.

"It's an important Test match for us. We know we have to lift our level of play higher than at Old Trafford or Trent Bridge," commented Cronje evenly.

Up on the balcony Allan Donald resembled a crocodile on the river bank, lying motionless in wait and shedding a few tears over Merv Kitchen's doleful reaction to his Nottingham trials.

"He had a couple of shockers that affected the course of the game. Like all umpires he is dealing with people's careers whenever he's in the middle," said Donald, echoing Mark Ramprakash's angry words to Darrell Hair earlier this season. "He seemed under

pressure to me, like we all are, and I suppose there comes a time when eventually you've had enough."

Any doubts in the South African camp are confined to the composition of their final XI. "We're not going to panic after one Test," insisted Cronje. "We won't make too many dramatic changes."

Like England, South Africa are contemplating going in without a spinner, be it Pat Symcox or Paul Adams. That might yet allow Brian McMillan to claim a place in the side. Watching Mark Ilett twice

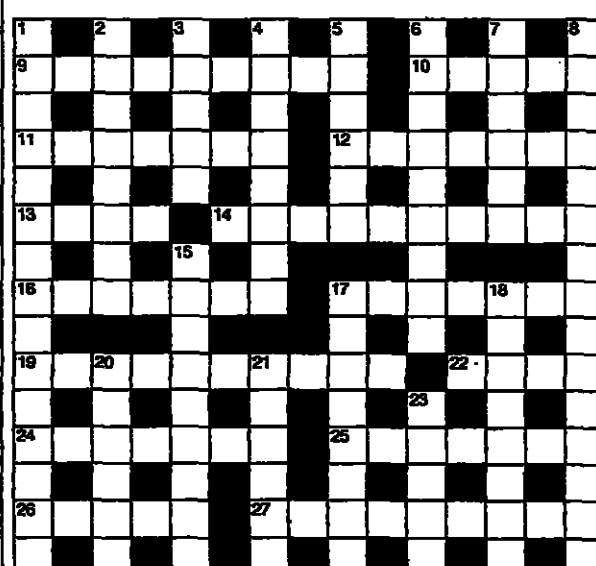
depositing Symcox over his head for six failed to suggest that the 38-year-old bowler will scare the life out of the home side, and it was Shaun Pollock with three for 37 who looked best-prepared for the fray.

Tim Hodgson and Barry Hyam paddled the weakened home side but it was the departing fire engine which attracted the day's most enthusiastic applause. In this summer of summers, we were bound to experience hosepipe fans eventually.

Picture, page 17

Guardian Crossword No 21,343

Set by Rufus

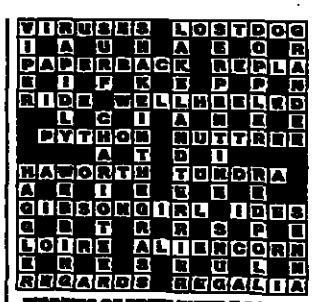


Across

- 9 Musical production turned into theatrical work (5)
- 10 Source of wild laughter (5)
- 11 Bill given by a retailer? (7)
- 12 Sushy product made by Mother with a whisk, perhaps (7)
- 13 I make an offer in place of a previous quotation (4)
- 14 Understanding it's becoming popular (8,2)
- 16 Do not notice the lack of proper care (7)
- 17 Chasing a double century I hit out and get it (7)
- 19 Just inclined to like blondes? (4-5)
- 22 Smart fellow the French take into 11 across (4)
- 24 Sporting official may help us get a job (7)

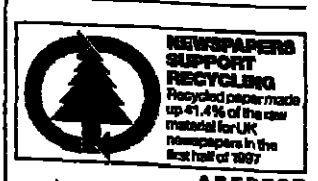
Down

- 1 Revolutionary system for increasing the harvest (8,2,5)
- 2 Realising it's delightful (8)
- 3 Churned up mud at the starting line (5)
- 4 Absent-minded girl's distinguishing feature (8)
- 5 Consisting of wise sayings of Zurich bankers? (9)
- 6 A bit of entertainment worth seeing? (8)
- 7 We sign for some household (5)
- 8 They were places to change for the Brighton Belle (7,5)



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,343
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are G. A. Fry of Carlisle, Cumbria, Eric Wylie of Wimborne, Dorset, Mrs. T. G. Barnes of Cleveland, Becky Harris of Abertan, and Jeffrey Woodham of Colchester, Essex.
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